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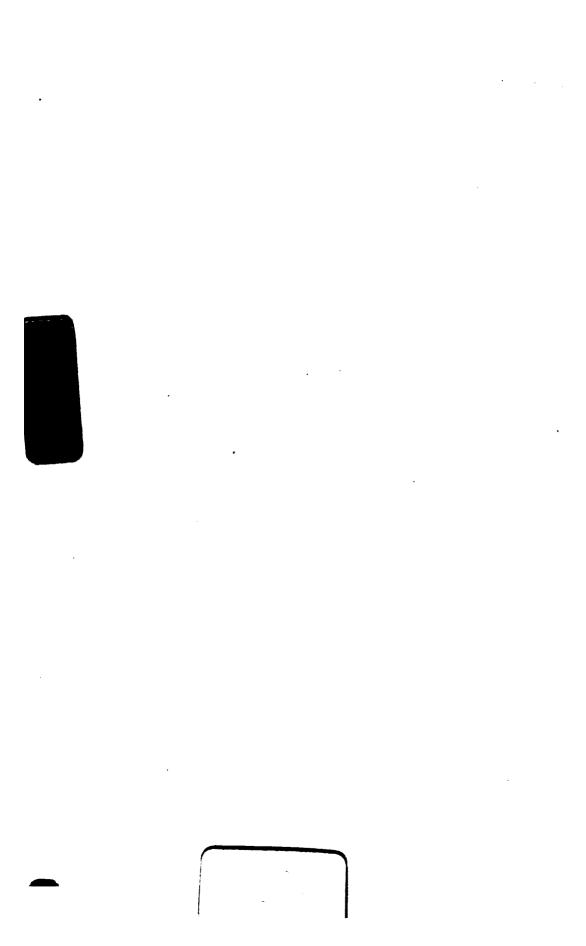
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GENERAL TREATISE

ON THE

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

BY WHICH & SILVE

Courts of Equity

ARE GUIDED AS TO

THE PREVENTION OR REMEDIAL CORRECTION

07

FRAUD:

WATE

NUMEROUS INCIDENTAL NOTICES OF COLLATERAL POINTS.

BOTH OF

Law and Equity.

By JOHN EYKYN HOVENDEN, Esq.

OF GRAY'S INN, BARRISTER AT LAW.

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VOL. I.

LONDON:

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PREFATORY

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THE design and scope of this Treatise will be found developed in the introductory chapter: any defects in the execution of the proposed plan (and such will, no doubt, be found in abundance,) would be but indifferently atoned for by a long repetition of apologetic explanations, and attempts at palliation, founded on the very extensive and complex nature of the subject.

To any such plea as that intimated above, it might be forcibly objected, that, no one is obliged to undertake a task, of this kind, to which his powers are incommensurate; and the only reply which suggests itself would be, to urge the utter improbability, if this precautionary rule were rigidly adhered to, that, any general treatise upon the present subject should ever appear.

Without denying, or doubting, that, many individuals, possessing all the qualifications requisite to make such a work complete might be pointed out; it may still be alleged, with some confidence, that, since such learned persons can employ their time so much more advantageously to themselves, in a different manner, they are extremely unlikely to make the very great personal sacrifice, which a devotion of their labors to a treatise of this kind would necessarily entail.

Should the unreasonableness of expecting such a sacrifice be admitted, the case will resolve itself into this question—if a perfect work cannot, with probability, be hoped for, must one of inferior execution be necessarily useless? They who adopt the affirmative, will, of course, not trouble themselves with the present publication. To those whose demands upon an author's ability are not so high, this work is offered; not without the hope, (the avowal of which it would be affectation to suppress,) that, it may be found a convenient book of reference by practitioners in every branch of the profession.

This object of convenient and easy reference has never been lost sight of: the authorities cited, in support of every proposition advanced, will, it is believed, bear out the text; it is certain, that, none of those authorities have been stated upon trust, at second hand, or without personal examination; in selecting them, precise appositeness has been the aim, not number; or rather, multi-

plicity of references to establish a single point has been studiously avoided, from a conviction, (the result of experience,) that, such multiplicity is not calculated to afford a steady, or at all events not a prompt, guidance: since it is scarcely possible, that, a number of decisions should be brought together, in some of which (though all bearing, in the main, upon the same point,) general principle has not been modified by accessorial circumstances. Decisions so qualified, restricted, or extended by collateral incidents, it has been attempted to keep distinct; not omitting to notice them, but not confusedly mixing them up with the broad general rules, upon any subject here discussed.

To cite a long case, for a particular doctrine recognized therein, but which case embraces many other distinct topics, yet to give a mere general direction to the volume in which it is reported, and to the page in which such report commences, shortens an author's labors, unquestionably; but, it is only by shifting the trouble of discriminating research from himself to his reader: in this treatise, the very page in which the authority relied on may be found, is, in almost every instance, intended to be referred to; some errors of transcription, or of the press, in this respect, it is not doubted, will have escaped notice; but, it is hoped, they will not be found numerous.

An alphabetical table of the cases cited is prefixed to the first volume, enabling the reader, at a glance, to ascertain whether any particular decision is here noticed; and, if so, guiding him to the place where he may see by what other authorities that decision is supported, qualified, or contradicted.

A connected and synthetical Index, of the contents of each principal division of the work, is subjoined at its close; combined with an analytical Index of the collateral subjects treated of. Facility of reference, (which in the body of the work made brevity desirable as far as that was consistent with perspicuity,) here obviously indicates the propriety of copiousness: the shorter points of any treatise are precisely those which stand most in need of an index to make them readily accessible; and no one will contend, that, it is enough if all the important contents are found, somewhere or other, in an index; or deny that it is desirable they should be referred to under each title where they may probably be sought; particularly, when this can, in most cases, be done by a single figure. On this head, indeed, the author is less afraid of being charged with redundancy, than of being reproached for deficiencies; as he is sensible there are doctrines laid down in the body of his work, and there supported by authorities,

to which passages no corresponding reference will be found in the Index. Pains, however, have been taken to prevent the frequency of such omissions; for, although the minute drudgery of index-making is what no writer would willingly undertake, still, his readers have a right to expect it from him as a matter of duty: with respect to books of general literature, indeed, this is a distinct department, with which the author of any work seldom interferes; but the writer of a law treatise must make his own index.

A running abstract of the principal contents of each page will be found in the margin thereof; if this should be thought a work of supercrogation, it will, at least, not add to the bulk of the work; it only occupies space which would otherwise have been left blank; the additional labor rests, exclusively, with the author; the convenience different readers may estimate differently; but that convenience, it is believed, will not, by economists of their time, be thought inconsiderable.

Some doctrines discussed in this treatise have appeared almost equally applicable to more than one division of the work; but generally, even in these cases, some distinctive character has been found to direct their appropriation to a particular chapter; and where a notice of the same subject has been called for in a different part of the work,

this has, usually, been effected by a mere reference. In a few instances, however, it has been deemed essential to the integral unity of each of two distinct chapters, to advance, in terms, the same proposition in both: and, when the propriety of so doing has been felt, no attempt has been made to disguise the repetition, by any studied variation of phrase, or by a different selection of authorities.

Correction of errors, even if inflicted with caustic severity, the author will endeavour to profit by: hints for improvements, suggested with indulgence, will be entitled to, and will assuredly receive, his grateful acknowledgments. Such as the work is in its present state, it must, now, be offered to the Public, unpatronized: if it be worthless, the name of the highest patron could not uphold it; if it shall be found to possess utility, and afford convenience, it will require no other patronage.

5, New Square, Lincoln's Inn, 17th March, 1825.

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ERRATA ET ADDENDA.

Vol. 1, p. 256, note (s), for chap. 30, read "chap. 32."

260, note (h), add "c. 14, s. 16."

415, for it, read "the statute of distributions."

Vol. 2, p. 28, note (d), for p. 233, 3rd Edit. read "p. 251, 5th Edit."

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GENERAL TREATISE

ON THE

Aurisdiction of Courts of Equity

IN MATTERS OF

FRAUD.

CHAPTER I.

Introduction.—Rise and progress of the equitable iurisdiction—its importance, extent, and limits -proposed division of the subject-and a vindication of Lord Hardwicke's doctrine, that, "fraud may, in Equity, be presumed;" understanding the word "presumption" according to the sense in which it was used by that great Judge.

WHILST almost every minor subdivision, whether of the principles or the practice of Courts of general treatise Equity, has been illustrated by the labors—not of one, but, in many instances,—of several writers; it is somewhat singular that no treatise should, yet, have been devoted to a general digest of the doctrine with respect to the most fruitful head of equitable jurisdiction,—FRAUD.

The two justly esteemed works of Mr. Roberts, already published, form no exception to this statement: they, it is well known, are confined to the examination of frauds in contravention of particular statutes; which, to adopt his own well chosen language, are "merely supplemental to general principles:" and the more extended treatise, which the legal profession has, for years, been taught to expect from the pen of that gentleman, even when the desirable undertaking shall be completed, will, as far as a conjecture can be formed from the terms in which it is announced, be sufficiently distinct from the present essay.

To supply that deficiency is the sent work.

An exposition of the practice engrafted upon object of the pre- general principles by Courts of Equity, and the preventive, or remedial, application of both to the multiplied artifices of every description of fraud, is the proposed subject of the present volume; and those who are best able to appreciate the extent of the task thus undertaken, will, probably, pass the most lenient judgment upon its imperfect execution.

Extensive natempt.

Such readers, if any of this description should ture, and diffi-culty, of the atthat, to condense, within a moderate compass, the substance of all the reported decisions under so extensive a title as that of Fraud, is a project not to be et semel inceptum et simul perfectum: it will sufficiently gratify a moderate ambition to have led the way, and to have facilitated a more complete and systematic arrangement of the subject by future and abler writers. It would, no doubt, be easy to put forth a publication impos-

ing

ing by its voluminous magnitude; that might be accomplished without any mental exercise, and with little more manual labour than could be executed with a pair of scissors, by an adept in the art of book-making: but if, instead of such a rudis indigestaque moles, the plan aimed at be, to prepare, and arrange, a compendious manual; omitting no head of a most extensive subject, and supporting every collateral branch thereof by an express authority in point, establishing the present doctrine of the Courts, where that is settled; or supplying the best materials for forming a probable opinion upon points not definitively fixed; to execute this, perfectly, would require talents, 'learning, powers of selection, separation and combination, leisure, industry and experience; in short, such an union of various qualifications, as might well deter the present writer (not so ignorant as to be unaware how many of these requisites he is deficient in,) from attempting such a task; did it appear at all probable that it would be undertaken by any one fully fitted for its accomplishment; of future, and until some pioneer should, in part at least, have may be facilitated by this undercleared the way, and brought together the mate-taking, though in rials, in readiness to receive the disposition of a executed. master-hand. They who, by their connexions with that class of the profession which, alone, has the power of doing so, have been introduced into early practice; and they who, by pre-eminent talents have, without such aid, forced themselves into notice, cannot, whatever their acquirements may be, have leisure for the laborious research required by works of this kind; which they must, first instance,

The labours

quired, in the

not be afforded by gentlemen in full practice.

to collect mate- not unwillingly, resign to those who are not occuriais for works of this kind, can. pied by more lucrative employment; the number of the latter description will always, naturally and properly, be considerable; and (a) "nobis stet illud, vivere in studiis nostris: non deesse, si quis adhibere volet, non modo ut architectos verumetiam ut fabros; sin nemo utetur operá, tamen et scribere et legere πολιτείας (των νόμων), et si minus in curiá atque in foro, at in literis et libris, ut doctissimi veteres fecerunt, navare operam (b), et de moribus Mihi hæc videntur. ac legibus quærere.

The origin, and progress, of the jurisdiction of Chancellors briefly traced,

Any extended antiquarian disquisition into the origin of the jurisdiction of the Court of Chancerv would be foreign to the design of this treatise. The man of leisure and curiosity may find amusement in such researches; and may smile at the vehemence, with which conflicting opinions upon the subject have been maintained: but, for practical purposes, (and in the present instance, merely with a view to show how the equitable jurisdiction with respect to Fraud originated, and how far it extends), a brief outline of the best authenticated conclusions will suffice.

Sir

- (a) Ciceronis Epist. 2a. ad Varronem; Epistolar. lib. 9.
- (b) It will be seen, that I use the reading of Lambinus, whose emendation, whether approved, in this instance, by the Critics, or not, is at all events most suited to my present purpose: the common text has rempublicam; although jurisprudence

forms no unimportant branch of political economy, the introduction, otherwise than most briefly and incidentally, of abstract politics into a book of professional practice would be misplaced; upon this principle I have inserted (דَهَ بَهُ بِهِ parenthetically, to restrict the generality of the word wateries.

Sir William Jones, whose elegant deductions to the Archon of succeeding writers have (frequently without acknowledgment) transcribed, has traced back to the chief Archon of the Athenians a jurisdiction analogous to that of our Chancellors (c). This, like other analogies, should only be admitted with discrimination; and the shades of distinction will display most advantageously our, comparatively modern, but far better constituted, establishment.

The less elegant, but equally sagacious, historian of Greece (d) has suggested, that "Aristotle was, probably, induced to repose plenary discretion in the chief magistrate of his imaginary commonwealth, from an observation of the opposite extravagance at Athens; where decrees of the multitude, there the unbalanced sovereign, at the suggestion of demagogues, favorites of the moment, were so multiplied, with such haste and so little circumspection, that, in many cases, the citizens could not know to which of many laws they were actually subject." It is, indeed, an observation at least as old as Aristotle (e), and one so obvious as, probably, to have been of much earlier date, that it is quite impracticable for any system of law, however comprehensive, to embrace every possible case: it was, therefore, the practice of the early Grecian commonwealths to leave it to and the early the discretion of the presiding magistrate, to deal, Grecian common wealths, geas circumstances should require, with cases not nerally:

provided

⁽c) See Sir W. Jones's Works, 43, Sect. 3, of his Hist. (e) See his Polit. lib. 1, cap. Vol. 9, p. 142. 8vo. Edit. (d) W. Mitford. See Chap.

provided for by positive institution; -- in other words, to make a law for the occasion: and the only palliative for this tremendous power which the ingenuity of the great Stagvrite could suggest. was to give, in his imaginary polity, such an education to, and encourage such principles in, those to whom arbitrary judicial discretion was to be confided, as should insure it against abuse.

An imperfect tenure this, we should now think, for property and civil rights! Still, the Archon of the Athenians may be acknowledged as, in some respects, the rude prototype of a British Chanas also to the Ro- cellor; the Prætor appears to have been the nearly corresponding officer under the Roman Repub-Republican, Imperial, or Ponti-lic (f); both the office and the name were in use fical government. The of under Imperial Rome (g), and have been preserved to modern times by the Pontifical institutions; to the Saxons, or we are also told (h), that the Saxon, and even the British Monarchs, in the most remote periods, had their Chancellors.

man institutions, whether under fice of Chancellor not unknown even the antient Britons.

The Court of Chancery unquestionably established in this country, as the officina brevium, before time of legal memory;

At all events, that, in this country, the Court of Chancery, as a Court of Law, and the officina brevium, existed previous to the earliest records of our legislature, we have evidence, in the resolution of all the judges of England, in the 9th year of the reign of Edward the 4th, stating, that "the four Courts at Westminster were all before time of memory (i)."

But.

⁽f) Digest. lib. 1, tit. 1.7.

⁽g) Cassiodorus, lib. 12, formula 1. Flavius Vopiscus, apud Hist. Aug. Script.

⁽h) Mirror, cap. 1, sect. 3. 4th. Instit. 78.

⁽i) See the Year Book, ad annum, fol. 53, b.

But, for the peculiar and distinct jurisdiction of but its poculiar our Courts of Equity, no such high antiquity can diction of later be claimed: The Court of Star Chamber seems to date: and fully acquirhave been their elder sister (k); as we find that ed only upon the Court fully established in the twenty-eighth year Court of Star of the reign of Edward III: and learn (1) that which it was its proceedings were by English Bill, or inform- previously exercised. ation; by the examination of the defendants upon interrogatories; by examination of witnesses upon depositions, and, rarely, ore tenus; and, further, that all the writs and process of the Court were under the great seal. Striking as this similarity appears; and much as the resemblance is strengthened, by the principle upon which the authority of this Court was justified; -- namely, that, "the proceeding according to the laws and customs of this realm could not by one rule of law suffice; and, therefore, this Court so dealt that the medicine might be according to the disease;" yet there is one circumstance which raises a strong and clear line of demarcation between the Court of tween the two Star Chamber and the Court of Chancery; the Chamber took cognizance of former took cognizance of criminal offences, and criminal, as well was employed as an engine of state (m) for the the peculiar jupurposes of despotism; the latter is conversant, Chancery applies to civil right of its peculiar jurisdiction, only with questions of property, and the maintenance of civil rights.

dissolution of the Chamber, by

Distinction beas civil, offences; risdiction of

That

⁽k) Lib. Assis. p. 22, pl. 52.

^{(1) 4}th. Instit. 63.

⁽m) Camd. Britan. in Introduction. And see the stat.

¹⁶ Car. 1, cap. 10, by which the Court of Star Chamber was abolished.

An approximation to the date at which the equitable jurisdiction of Chancery was first, imperfectly, established.

That the Court of Chancery did not possess its present power of equitable jurisdiction, at the time when the valuable work entitled "Fleta" was written, is evident; for its author limits the duties and authority of the Chancellor to the custody of the King's Seal, and the formation of Original Writs (n). Selden has satisfactorily shewn (o), that, the book just cited was written during the reign, probably late in the reign, of Edward II.; and we have the testimony of the Statute Book (p), that, in the seventeenth year of Richard the Second's reign, the authority of the Court of Chancery was sanctioned by the legislature (q): it is between these two periods, then, that we must place the first imperfect origin of that peculiarity in our system of jurisprudence. which, strengthened by successive improvements, and tempered by wise restrictions, has "produced a purity in the administration of justice, that could not, perhaps, have been effected by other means(r)."

Advantages of mon Law and of Equity distinct; thus preserving the simplicity and precision of one;

The peculiarity alluded to, consists in keeping keeping the provinces of Law and of Equity distinct; thus preserving to the Courts of Common Law the advantages of simplicity and precision, which they could not enjoy if their established forms of proceeding were suffered to bend to, and be modified by, the equitable circumstances of each particular

⁽q) Reeve's Hist. of Engl. (n) See Fleta, lib. 2, cap. 13. .

⁽o) See his Dissert. cap. 10, Law; vol. 3, p. 194. sect. 1. (r) Lord Redesdale's Treat.

⁽p) Stat. 17 Ric. 2. cap. 6. on Eq. Pl. p. 6.

ticular case: whilst, at the same time, the intolerable inconvenience which must arise from a rigid adherence to rules too narrow to embrace and, at the same complicated questions, is obviated, by the insti-time, admitting the just and temtution of a Court empowered to "supply what is perate modifications of the other. defective (s)," and to "control what is unintentionally harsh (t)," in the operation of general principles.

The equitable jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery, as now established, extends to almost equitable jurisall questions involving civil rights, for which no Court of Chanremedy is provided by the course of the Courts of Common Law; and also (as will, in the proper places, be shewn), to many cases in which the Spiritual, the Admiralty, and the Common Law Courts have a concurrent jurisdiction.

Extent of the

Equity, or natural justice, is the rule by which, and rules by where positive law is either silent, defective, or which the exercise of that junot clearly defined, the decisions of the Court of risdiction is Chancery are guided; and, in all new cases, the guided. In ne conscience of the Judge who presides in any of the Judge is, branch of that Court must, of necessity, be the necessarily, the measure of standard by which justice is measured. This, Equity: certainly, appears an alarming power, requiring power which to be checked and counteracted by the most counteracting guarded precautions: for though, in every state, precautions, to render it compaand under every form of government, supreme tible with the other institutions authority must be lodged somewhere; yet, to of a free country. commit without restraint both the enactment of laws pro re natá, and also their administration.

In new cases,

to

⁽t) Pasquier, Recherches, 88.

⁽s) Puffendorf, Jurisp. Univers. lib. 1, sec. 22.

to one and the same individual; would be to create the most naked and undisguised despotism: it has, therefore, ever been the most difficult problem in the theory of government,—the experimentum crucis of legislative wisdom,—to provide for the equitable "correction of that wherein the law, by reason of its universality, fails (u);" without permitting such an uncontrolled, declaratory and dispensing power, as, under the specious colour of equity, might establish an intolerable tyranny.

The checks by which any corrupt abuse of the powers of the Court of Chancery is restrained.

But, with respect to the Court of Chancery, when it is recollected, that, as before has been mentioned, all treasons and political offences, and, generally (w), all criminal charges having a tendency to excite the passions and prejudices of men, are out of the jurisdiction of the Court: alarm will be lessened; and if it be further considered, how many checks are imposed upon hasty decisions,-by the opportunity of rehearings; by the power of appealing from the several subordinate branches to the superior department of the Court itself; by the right of Parliamentary Appeal; and, above all, by the salutary control of public opinion, so powerful in this free and happy country; every apprehension of corrupt abuse must vanish.

It

to a crime, which it is the peculiar province of this Court to take cognizance of." Gee v. Pritchard, 2 Swanst. 413.

⁽u) Grotius de Æquitate, sec. 3.

⁽n) An exception must be made as to infants; "a dealing with an infant may amount

It should also be borne in mind, it is only in cases of the first impression that Courts of Equity established principles of decision, consider the exercise of their allowed discretion as unfettered; "principles of decision, when fully established, and made the grounds of successive decisions, are considered by those Courts as rules to be observed with as much strictness as positive law (x)."

It will be observed by the reader, that, Lord Redesdale, in the passage quoted, speaks not merely of decisions. (that would be to narrow the position most injuriously), but of principles of decision; and where a case comes before a Court of Equity, which is clearly referrible to a principle upon which former successive judgments have been grounded, the Court feels itself bound by such not to be overprior decisions; and bows to their authority, even when their oriwhen unable to acquiesce in their original pro- is questionable; priety (y). If an alteration appear absolutely esunless the innovation be ausential to justice, the legislature should be applied thorized by the to, as being, alone, competent to sanction the innovation.

This deference to precedent may offend the abstract notions of the theorist; but the practical ence to precelawver

Importance of

- (x) Redesdale, p. 4, in note; citing Burgess v. Wheate, 1 Wm. Blacks. 152; see also Cowper v. Cowper, 2 P. Wms. 753, as to the principles which limit the discretionary powers of Courts of Equity.
- (y) Davis v. Duke of Marlborough, 2 Swanst, 163; Gee

v. Pritchard, ibid. 414; Hinchcliffe v. Hinchcliffe, 3 Ves. 527; Ellis v. Smith, 1 Ves. Jun. 17; Stebbing v. Walkley, 2 Br. 86; Wagstaff v. Wagstaff, 2 P. Wms. 258; Sparrow v. Hardcastle, Ambl. 227; Tyrrell v. Hope, 2 Atk. 559.

lawyer will agree, that, of all evils affecting property, the uncertainty of jus vagum is the greatest: to avoid this is of so much importance in administering the justice of the country, that, "not only if there has been a variety of cases upon any subject, but even if only one ancient case can be produced, and there has been practice and experience in favor of it," authority, second to none, has declared, "it ought to be adhered to (z)."

It is scarcely necessary to add, in express terms.

The remedial powers peculiar to Courts of Equity never called into action. unless where positive law is si-

what has already been intimated, that, the remedial powers peculiar to Courts of Equity can be interposed only where positive law is silent, or delent, or defective. fective (a): where the will of the legislature is clearly pronounced with regard to all the circumstances which belong to a case, equity "can neither take it up where the law leaves it, nor extend the And even when remedy further than the law allows (b)." no legal remedy can be obtained, does not even follow, that, because, in any particular instance, there is no legal remedy, therefore, there must be an equitable one, unless there be an vent injustice; an equitable right (c): neither is a Court of Equity bound to find an equitable effect for any instrupeculiar jurisdic- ment, merely because the construction put upon it in a Court of Law leaves it inoperative (d); circumstances must be shewn, bringing the case

the Court of Chancery will not act, uni-versally, to preequitable right, bringing the case within the tion, must be shewn.

- (z) Att. General v. Mayor of Bristol, 2 Jac. & Walk. 318.
 - (a) Hale's Lords' Jurisd. 46.
- (b) Heard v. Stanford, Ca. temp. Talbot, 174.
 - (c) Wake v. Conyers, 1

Eden 335; M'Leod v. Drumond, 14 Ves. 360; Serjt. Maynard's Case, 2 Freem. 2. · (d) Gladstone v. Birley, 2. Meriv. 404.

within

within the principles upon which the peculiar jurisdiction is founded: for it is too general a ground to take, to say the Court of Chancery will act, universally, to prevent injustice (e).

This discreet reserve, however, as to the assumption of a novel jurisdiction, and this anxiety rule which infor the sanction of precedent, will not be carried clines Courts of Equity to tread such lengths as to paralyse the powers, and the in beaten paths; consequent utility, of the Court: the suppression exemplified in of Fraud, for instance, is one of the primary ob- cases of Fraud. jects of its institution; and previous judgments cannot always be found, affording direct authority for the decision of subsequent cases: crescit in orbe dolus; but if a case arises of fraud, or presumption of fraud, to which even no principle al-vented, to which ready established can be applied, a new principle no established principle of corprinciple of must be established to meet the fraud: for the rection applies, a new remedial possibility will always exist, that human inge-principle will be nuity in contriving fraud may go beyond any cases which have before occurred; and as new devices of fraud are invented, they must be met by new correctives (f): taking care, of course, not to clash with former resolutions. With prospective sagacity, Courts of Equity have always Equity fettered by no definition avoided imprudently hampering themselves, by of fraud excluding cases not defining, or laying down, as a general exclusive within such defiproposition,

Qualification of the general

If new devices

nition.

(e) Gardiner v. Edwards, 5 Ves. 592; the dictum in Parkhurst v. Lowten, 2 Swanst. 209, must be qualified as to its generality; and restricted (as it was, doubtless, meant) to cases where the interference of equity is asked in cases similar to that which was then before the Court.

(f) Webb v. Rorke, 2 Sch. & Lef. 666; Sawyer v. Vernon, 1 Vern. 387.

proposition, what shall be held to constitute fraud (g).

Concurrent equitable jurisdiction of the Court of Exchequer; and its probable date:

The Court of Exchequer has a concurrent jurisdiction in matters of equity with the Court of Chancery. From what period this equitable jurisdiction of the Court of Exchequer should be dated, is uncertain: the first recognition of it in the statute book is in the thirty-third year of Henry VIII., ch. 39; but Lord Coke is of opinion, that it was of earlier origin, and that the Exchequer is a Court of Equity by prescription (h).

with the fiction upon which it appears to have been originally founded. It was formerly deemed necessary, and is still usual, for a suitor to this Court to suggest that he is a "debtor and accountant to the Crown;" which suggestion the Court never would permit to be traversed: and even if it be omitted, the Court, it is said, will not at present (though the old practice was otherwise) entertain a demurrer for such cause (i).

The principles upon which equitable causes are decided in the Exchequer and in Chancery, the same;

The principles upon which the Court of Exchequer decides equitable causes are the same as those established in the Court of Chancery; and although some few instances of contradictory judgments may hereafter call for notice, yet, generally, and almost universally, the decisions of one Court are considered with the highest respect by, if not as precedents binding upon, the other.

⁽g) Mortlock v. Buller, 10
Ves. 306; Lawley v. Hooper,
3 Atk. 279; Stileman v. Ashdown, 2 Atk. 480.

(h) Fourth Instit. cap. 13.

(i) 1 Fowl. Exch. Prac. 3.

other. Some differences in point of form, and but with some some diversity in the extent of relief, granted by point of form, the two Courts respectively,—as, for instance, in the period up to which an account is decreed in a suit for tithe,—will be incidentally noticed, as the subjects arise; so far at least as these points may be found necessarily connected with the main object of this work; which is, to present a com- the main object pressed, but general, view of the principles and authorities according to which Equity, in the correction of Frauds, is administered in the Court of Chancery; whether under its prescriptive or statutory jurisdiction; whether sitting in Equity or Bankruptcy; or by virtue of a specially delegated power of administration, as in cases of lunacy; which though not of necessity committed to the officer holding the Great Seal, yet generally attends him (k).

and in practice.

The three leading subjects which come more Frauds, accipeculiarly under the cognizance of the Court of dents, and trusts, the three chief Chancery, are Frauds, Accidents, and Trusts (1): subjects of equitto some ramification from one or other of these stocks almost every exercise of the ordinary equitable jurisdiction of the Court may be referred; not only in cases which are primarily and exclu- not only in cases sively submitted to its own decision, but, also, of which Chanwherever it lends its aid as ancillary to, or, by its cognizance; but where it is ancilpower of granting injunctions, curbs proceedings lary to, or acts in in, other Courts: to a developement of the first ceedings in other of these heads, which must, however, frequently Courts.

able jurisdiction;

restraint of, pro-

and

⁽k) Oxenden v. Lord Cromp-(1) Fourth Instit. 84. 40n, 2 Ves. Jun. 71.

and unavoidably embrace a consideration of both the other, we proceed.

Many frauds re. lievable at common law:

In many cases of actual imposition, if the fraud can be clearly established, Courts of common Law will give relief; various instances of which are given in Fermor's case (m): but, it has been well observed (n), that, Lord Coke, by the same passage in which he confines the jurisdiction of Courts of Equity to "such frauds, covins and deceits for which there is no remedy by the ordinary course of Law (o)," admits that all frauds are not relievable at law: and Lord Hardwicke judicially debut, in the cor-clared, that, "the points of fraud and collusion Equity goes be- establish the authority of the Court of Chancery, yond, and even, sometimes, con- often contrary to, and beyond, the rules of trary to the rules Law (p)." Thus, also, Sir Joseph Jekyll expressly said, "it is true, that may be a fraud in Equity which is not so at Law (q)."

rection of fraud, of Law.

The power which Courts of Equity, alone, swer the charges

The power which Courts of Equity, alone, possess, of compelling a defendant to put in a full anpossess, of com-pelling a defend-swer to the charges exhibited against him, (proant fully to an- vided such disclosure would not expose him to a exhibited against penalty or forfeiture, and be not a breach of prohim, peculiarly fits them for the fessional confidence), peculiarly fits them for bringinvestigation and ing to light circumstances of imposition, which redress of fraud. must, frequently, be confined to the defendant's own knowledge. This, indeed, is no longer disputed; Lord Mansfield, sitting as Chief Justice

in

⁽m) 8 Rep. 77; and see Jenk. Cent. p. 254, pl. 45.

⁽n) Fonbl. notes to Treat. on Equity, p. 66.

⁽o) Fourth Instit. 84.

⁽p) Garth v. Cotton, 3 Atk. 755; Man v. Ward, 2 Atk. 229.

⁽q) Trenchard v. Wanley, 2 P. Wms. 166.

in the King's Bench, laid it down as unquestionable, that, " Courts of Equity and Courts of Law have a concurrent jurisdiction to suppress, and relieve against, fraud; but the interposition of the former is often necessary, for the better investigating truth, and to give more complete redress (r)."

The Court of Chancery, then, has an undoubt- With the single ed jurisdiction to relieve against every species of exception of fraud in obtain-Fraud (s); with a single exception as to fraud in ing the execution of, or setting up, obtaining the execution of, or setting up, a will; a will; the Court which, if relating to personalty, can only be set undoubted jurisaside by the Ecclesiastical Courts; if it relate to against all frauds. real estate, all a Court of Equity can do, in the first instance, is to direct an issue, devisavit vel non. to a Court of common Law (t).

of Chancery has

The variety of forms which Fraud may assume. would seem to set all systematic classification at cation of frauds, defiance: Lord Hardwicke, however, has done as relating to matters of conmuch towards simplifying that branch of the tract; subject which relates to fraud in matters of contract, by breaking it into five grand divisions (u): First, Actual fraud, arising from plain facts and circumstances of imposition. Secondly, fraud, evidenced by plain facts;

Lord Hardwicke's classifi-

Fraud

⁽r) Bright v. Eynon, 1 Burr. 396.

⁽s) Colt v. Wollaston, 2 P. Wms. 156; Stent v. Bailis, ibid. 219; Bright v. Eynon, 1 Burr. 396.

⁽t) Pemberton v. Pemberton, 13 Ves. 297; Bennet v. Wade, 2 Atk. 324; Archer v. Mosse, 2. Vern. 8; Jones v. Jones, 3

Meriv. 171, and 7 Price, 665; Andrews v. Powys, 2 Br. P. C. 476, 482, fol. edit.; Kerrich v. Bransby, 3 Br. P. C. 362; Bransby v. Berridge, 1 Eq. Ca. Ab. 406; and see post, under the title "Lunacy."

⁽u) Chesterfield v. Jansen, 2 Ves. Senr. 155.

which a conterms will make apparent.

presumed from the unequal situation of the parties contracting.

inferred where the transaction goes to deceive persons not parties to the contract.

ing bargains, which are generally compounded of several of the preceding species of

Examination of Lord Hardwicke's third division;

and its supposed inconsistency with decided cases discussed.

Secondly, fraud Fraud apparent from the intrinsic nature and sideration of the subject of the bargain itself, being such as no man in his senses and not under any delusion would make on the one hand, and no honest or fair man would accept on the other; and of such unconscionable bargains even the common law has Thirdly, fraud taken notice. Thirdly, Fraud presumed from the circumstances and condition of the parties contracting; and this goes farther than the rule of law,-which is that fraud must be prov-Fourthly, fraud ed, not presumed. Fourthly, Fraud collected or inferred, in the consideration of a Court of Equity, from the nature and circumstances of the transaction being an imposition and deceit on other persons not parties to the fraudulent Fifthly, catch- agreement. Fifthly, that fraud which infects catching bargains: these have generally been mixed cases, compounded of all, or several, of the preceding species; there being sometimes actual fraud, which is always decisive; or it may be presumed or inferred from the circumstances of the parties contracting.

Before any attempt is made to illustrate the numerous subdivisions of this branch of our proposed subject, by a reference to actual decisions; it may be well to examine, whether Lord Hardwicke's third position, as above stated, is maintainable. The passage is seldom quoted in books of practice without a reference to the cases of Townsend v. Lowfield (w), and Trenchard v. Wan-

ley;

(w) 1 Ves. Senr. 35; 8 Atk. given in Vesey's report; the 536: the statement seems best judgment in that by Atkyns.

ley (x); and a doubt, either expressed or implied, whether it is reconcilable with those authorities. In the first cited case, Lord Hardwicke himself The case of Townsend v. said, "No actual fraud has been proved on the Lowfield stated: defendant, and circumstances of suspicion are not sufficient for the Court of Chancery to ground a decree upon; as to what is prayed by this Bill, the Court never gives such directions unless gross fraud is actually proved." We must inquire, then, and analysed: what was the prayer of the bill under consideration? and what the directions which the Court will not give unless gross fraud be actually prov-The defendant, in the suit then depending, had been plaintiff in a former cause, in which one Hall, an insolvent, and his assignees, were defendants, and in which an account had been decreed. On taking this account before the Master, Lowfield produced an acknowledgment from Hall of his debt. Hall made an affidavit, that this admission had been obtained from him by Lowfield without any consideration: but the credit of this affidavit was weakened by proof of payment of part to Hall. Hall died; and Townsend, as Hall's representative, brought his bill in aid of the account previously ordered; and, after charging fraud, in that the sum which the defendant claimed before the Master had never been actually paid to Hall, prayed that the defendant should be examined upon interrogatories, and be allowed no sums but what he should produce receipts for, or prove, by witnesses present at the time, to have been

(x) 2 P. Wms. 166.

been really advanced. Under these circumstances. the weight of Hall's testimony being much re-

duced, not merely by his own previous written admission, but by proof, aliunde, that a part, at least, of the monies had come to his hands; and his death, as well as that of several other witnesses, having deprived the defendant Lowfield of the benefit of their examination; Lord Hardwicke, although there were some suspicious appearances, would not presume fraud; and declared that the Court would not, wantonly, on presumption or influence, give such directions as the This decision by no means contra-Vindication of bill prayed. dicts his Lordship's subsequent assertion, in Chesterfield & Jansen, before cited, that, "fraud may be presumed from circumstances." A refusal to to make the pre- make this presumption where a party has substantiated part of his defence by evidence, and where he is deprived, not by his own default but degree, rebutted; by the act of God (y), of the benefit of examinations which might, possibly, have had the effect of removing any remaining suspicions; affords lost by the act of neither authority nor sound argument against admitting, and acting upon, a presumption well corroborated, and the force of which is not weakened by rebutting circumstances. Violenta presumptio is, in many cases, according to Lord Coke, The rules of evidence in Equi. plena probatio (2): and the rules of evidence in

Lord Hardwicke's consistency, in declaring that fraud may be presumed; yet refusing sumption, where the suspicious circumstances were, in some and where evidence, which might have cleared up the whole, had been God.

(y) In Johnson v. Johnson, decided on appeal in Dom. Proc. 18 Mar. 1727, this consideration was a material ingredient in the reversal of Lord Lechmere's decree.

Equity.

(z) 1 Instit. 6 b; and see Baddeley v. Leapingwell, Wilm. Notes, 237.

Equity, frequently, call upon the Judge to de-ty require only cide, taking all the circumstances together, not absolutely on which side the truth lies, but, that, it is highly and morally probable the truth is with one party, or witness, rather than the other (a). For, as Lord Hardwicke said on another occasion, there is no rule of evidence to be laid down, in the Court of Chancery, but a reasonable one; such as the nature of the thing to be proved will admit of (b).

In Trenchard & Wanley (c), Sir Joseph Jekyll, With what re-M. R. did, indeed, say, that, "the rule of law as tumin Trenchard to fraud is also a good rule in Equity; namely, v. Wanley is to be understood: that fraud is never to be presumed:" but to this, as to every other dictum, we must apply the universal axiom, that words are always to be understood secundum subjectam materiam (d), with reference to the occasion on which they are used. Now, in Trenchard & Wanley, the defendant, a goldsmith or banker, having money in his hands belonging to the plaintiff, was instructed by him to invest it in lottery orders, without any direction in whose name those lottery orders should be taken. Wanley took the orders in his own name, and afterwards subscribed them into the South Sea Stock, with other orders of his own and of his different customers to a large amount; but did not give notice of the transaction until two

⁽a) East India Company v. Donald, 9 Ves. 282.

⁽b) Llewellyn v. Mackworth, (c) 2 P. Wms. ubi supra.

³ Atk. 40; and see Man v. Ward, 2 Atk. 229.

⁽d) Fourth Rep. 13 b, 14 a.

two months had elapsed. The plaintiff, upon a failure of the bubble, brought his bill in Chancery, praying that the defendant might be ordered to replace the lottery orders which he had, without the consent of the plaintiff, subscribed into the South Sea Stock.

It was under these circumstances, that, Sir Joseph Jekyll said, "the confusion and hurry that goldsmiths, and other people, were then in, might account for the defendant's not giving notice, sooner than he did, of his having subscribed these orders into the South Sea Stock; and the question might be retorted upon the plaintiff—why did not he come sooner to redemand the orders?" His Honour further thought, that even if the plaintiff had forbidden the defendant to subscribe the orders, yet, if they were left in his hands, the express words of the act of Parliament (e), passed for that special purpose, would have justified the subscription; but here there was no prohibition on the cestui que trust. The reason, the learned Judge said, why the defendant took the orders in his own name, might be, that, he was always in the way to accept them; and there was no direction from the plaintiff to buy the orders in any other name: then, from the time the defendant took the orders in his own name, he became a trustee; and, being a trustee, the act of Parliament alone, without any authority from the party, empowered him to make this subscription; and the case was the stronger in that the defend-

ant

⁽e) Stat. 6 Geo. 1, cap. 4, sec. 23.

ant subscribed other orders of his own, and only acted for the plaintiff as he did for himself. general confidence of the nation at the time of making these subscriptions was, that it was a beneficial thing; so that nothing but fraud in this case could make the trustee answerable to his cestui que trust. Besides, a later act of Parliament (f), intended to quiet all matters, and to bind down and conclude the proprietors of South Sea Stock, gave them 33l. 6s. 8d. per cent. in satisfaction and full discharge of the monies paid on any subscriptions, notwithstanding any doubt or question touching the validity of the subscription in any wise.

It was with reference to these peculiar facts, that Sir Joseph Jekyll said, fraud was not to be sion of Trenchard presumed;—and so in a similar case, it is pretty v. Wasley is by no means inconcertain any Judge in Equity would say at the pre-sistent with the sent day: - but such a decision would by no means Hardwicke, that, impugn the doctrine of Lord Hardwicke, that cir- other circumcumstances may justify the presumption of fraud. stances, be presumption of fraud. sumed; Sir Joseph Jekyll's words, as reported, are, no doubt, very general; but, even admitting they were as generally spoken, still, when the occasion on which they were delivered is taken into account, they will amount to no more than this—a Court though such of Equity will not wantonly presume fraud, where a presumption will never be a more favorable inference can fairly be drawn; made wantonly, or upon doubtful or, to use the words of Chief Justice Treby, in evidence. Bath & Montague's case (g), "will not convict

As that case stood, the decidoctrine of Lord fraud may, under

⁽f) Stat. 7 Geo. 1, cap. 1, (g) \$ Cha. Ca. 85. sec. 3.

Other occasional dicta. priety of imput-

preted by his Lordship's own declarations on

fallen from Lord other occasions.

authority concur-Lord Hardwicke.

any man of fraud, where the evidence is doubtful." Lord Hardwicke's third division of the several species of frauds, neither overrules the dicta in Townsend & Lowfield, and in Trenchard & Wanley, nor is itself at all weakened as an authority by those cases; they may well stand together. And although other occasional dicta, not decisions, against the pro- are reported (h), as having fallen from very high priety or imputing fraud; exam. authority, against imputing fraud; their generality may, it is believed, admit, and require, qualification: when it has been said, that, "in a Court of Equity fraud must be clearly proved, not imputed;" it is apprehended the meaning must have been, not to exclude all inference of fraud from circumstances (i) short of legal proof; but, that the circumstances ought to be such as will amount to morally conclusive, though not direct and formal, those which have evidence of mala fides: for instance, Lord Eldon's Eldon best inter- own judgment in Fullagar v. Clark(k), affords the best interpretation of the sense in which he used occasional expressions, ascribed to him; in that case, his Lordship declared "his opinion that the Court of Chancery would, as it ought, in many cases, order an instrument to be delivered up, as unduly obtained, that a jury would not be justified in impeaching by the rules of law, which require fraud to be proved, and are not satisfied though it may be strongly presumed;" His Lordship added, Lord Kenyon's that both Lord Hardwicke and Lord Kenyon rerent with that of cognized the same distinction. And in the very case

⁽h) See Walker v. Symonds, 3 Swanst. 61.

⁽i) Stileman v. Ashdown, 2 Atk. 480.

⁽k) 18 Ves. 483.

case in which Lord Eldon observes "fraud must never be imputed unless clearly proved," he subsequently declares it "impossible not to infer, judicially, a fraudulent purpose (l)," from an act, which, under other circumstances, might well have been referred to erroneous judgment, or, at the worst, to carelessness.

It is certainly not from any wish to enter into competition with the feeble race of "word-catchers who live on syllables," that this point has been dwelt upon: but as the doubt and difficulty raised by them, would, unless removed once for all, be meeting us at sundry stages of our progress, it may be well to dispose of them. The whole discussion might, perhaps, have been avoided, if, in which have been raised as to the the reported judgments which have given rise to propriety of Lod Hardwicke's it, the word inference had always been cautiously third division of used instead of the word presumption. The ques- ther upon verbal tion is, indeed, rather one for a captious verbal legal principle; critic than for a reasoning lawyer; and has, proba-but the accuracy bly, arisen from a confusion between the distinct language instrictly defensible; senses in which the word presumption may be used;—first, as implying belief, previously formed, without examination: secondly, as "an inference from circumstances, not affording rigid demonstration, but necessarily impressing a strong moral conviction (m)." In the first sense, presumption

The doubts frauds, turn raof his Lordship's

Butler, no mean authority, uses the word presumption, in the sense here attributed to it, no fewer than fifteen times in the first seven introductory pages to his admirable "Analogy."

⁽¹⁾ Walker v. Symonds, 3 Swanst. 71; and see Taylor v. Jones, 2 Atk. 602.

⁽m) Johnson, ad vocem; citing "the sagacious" Hooker. It may be added, that, Bishop

and presumption, taking the word in the sense in which it was, properly, used, may afford good grounds for an equitable decigion.

Distinction between those presumptions to equitable docted as a species positive presumptions of law.

Lord Hardwicke's arrangement of the several species of frauds in matters of contract cannot justly be impeached;

but this treatise, subject. as embracing a sions.

sumption is, doubtless, quite as much at variance with the rules of equity, and of common sense, as with those of common law: in its other meaning, presumption, strongly corroborated and unrebutted, may, according to the authorities already cited, and those which will, hereafter, be quoted, afford admissible grounds for an equitable decision: suck a presumption is, in the words of Lord Mansfield (n), "a species of evidence, which must have a ground to stand upon, something whence it is to which, according arise," and which may be met by conflicting evitrine, are admit-dence or argument: "being thus distinguishable of evidence; and from a positive presumption of law, which admits no contradiction;" and in support of which no application of equitable doctrine is requisite (o).

On the whole, we may conclude, not merely that Lord Hardwicke's arrangement of the several species of fraud is not to be impeached, because it includes presumptive frauds; but that it would have been altogether deficient had it omitted them: and, if our present purpose were to treat of . frauds in matters of contract only, we might, with confidence, adopt his Lordship's divisions of the But the more extended nature of our wider scope, re. plant proposing to embrace every description of quires more numerous subdivi- fraud cognizable in Equity, requires a classification under more numerous heads: and, in making the necessary subdivisions, one principal object will

> After this observation, it would be mere pedantry to accumulate examples.

- (n) Goodtitle on dem. Brydges v. Duke of Chandos, 2 Bur. 1072.
- (o) Bennett v. Musgrove, 1 Ves. Senr. 52. See post, under the head of "Settlement, Convevance, &c."

will be to consult the convenience of the practising lawyer, by so grouping the cases more immediately connected with, and illustrating, each other, as to facilitate reference (p).

(p) An acute friend of mine, who accidentally called in upon me whilst I was employed on this work, gave me this piece of advice;—" if you wish your book to be consulted, take care to render it reading made easy." I communicate the hint for the

benefit of my brethren; to me it came rather late, as my plan had been previously fixed, and too extensively acted upon to be changed. How far it might have been simplified the reader must judge.

CHAPTER II.

Frauds as between Solicitor and Client.

Transactions between Solicitor and Client jealously scrutinized.

a gratuity taken by the former from the latter,

or even a formal conveyance, valid only as a security for actual advances:

THE relation between Solicitor and Client, and the power which his situation gives the former over the latter, makes it impossible to be perfectly assured, whether, in their transactions, the client is a free agent, or under undue influence and imposition: a Court of Equity, therefore, will not A security for let a solicitor take a security from his client, pending a suit, for a single shilling by way of gratuity: however reasonable this might be, in many cases (a). And if a solicitor obtain from a necessitous client a conveyance, it will be considered only as a security for what he has actually adalthough the re- vanced (b): and this relief will be given, even in lief be sought by a mere volunteer. favor of those who claim under the grantor merely

(a) Saunderson v. Glass, 2 Atk. 297; Bridgman v. Green, Wilmot, 72; and see infra.

(b) Plenderleath v. Fraser, 3 Ves. & Bea. 175; Proof v. Hines, Ca. temp. Talbot, 116;

Vaughan v. Lloyd, cited 5 Ves. 48; Wood v. Downes, 18 Ves. 123; Newman v. Payne, 2 Ves. Jun. 202; Lewes v. Morgan, 5 Price, 140.

as volunteers (c): for, as a general proposition, Equity will not allow a solicitor to make a pur- chase from his chase from his client whilst the relation sub-client; Even the fact, that a deed was prepared or prepare a deed (without the intervention of any other person) by claims any bea solicitor who claims any sort of benefit under nefit. it, is alone sufficient to raise a suspicion of fraud(e): but not so decisive a fact as to admit no explanation (f).

ought not to pur-

At common law, a client cannot change his attorney without a Judge's order; and then the client cannot change his at-Court provides that the papers shall not be taken torney, without a Judge's order; out of his hands, without rendering him justice by payment of his costs(g): and as a client, at law, cannot change his attorney without leave of nor can the atthe Court, there would be no mutuality if the at- the cause: torney had an absolute discretion to relinquish the cause (h). But in Courts of Equity the rule, in both cases, is different; a solicitor may decline rule is different, proceeding with a suit (i): or the client may, without any application to the Court, change his solicitor (k): whilst fraud, on either part, will be

torney relinquish

In Equity the

- (c) Falkner v. O'Brien, 2 Ball & Beat. 221.
- (d) Montesquieu v. Sandys. 18 Ves. 308, 313; Bellew v. Russell, 1 Ba. & Bea. 105.
- (e) Watt v. Grove, 2 Sch. & Lef. 503; Harris v. Tremenheere, 15 Ves. 40, 41.
- (f) Paine v. Hall, 18 Ves. 475; Balch v. Symes, 1 Turn. & Russ. 92.

(g) Twort v. Dayrell, 13

prevented

- (h) Cowell v. Simpson, 16 Ves. 281; Walmsley v. Booth, 2 Atk. 27.
- (i) Commerell v. Poyntun, 1 Swanst. 1.
- (k) Cresswell v. Byron, 14 Ves. 272.

solicitor may retain the client's papers, until his costs are paid;

and a solicitor who refuses to proceed with a suit has no lien on the funds in Court; and only a quapapers in his hands:

he must allow their inspection,

and production when necessary.

As against his client, a solicitor has a lien upon all papers which come into his hands in the character of solicitor;

but a discharged prevented; in one case, by allowing a discharged solicitor to retain the client's papers until his bill be paid; -he is authorized to refuse either to part with the papers, or even leave them in the Master's Office, before his costs are tendered (1). On the other hand, if a solicitor refuse to proceed with a suit, he has no lien on the funds in Court for his costs (m); and his lien on the papers in his hands will be qualified, so as not to prevent the lifted lies on the hearing of the cause (n): he cannot, by virtue of his lien, prevent the King's subjects from receiving justice (o): but must allow the solicitor who succeeds him, or any other duly appointed agent of the client, to inspect the client's deeds, papers, and writings in the cause, at all reasonable times, and on giving reasonable notice, and allow copies to be taken thereof; and also, if necessary, produce such deeds, papers, and writings before the Master, as well as at the hearing of the cause.

A solicitor has a lien upon all papers which come into his hands, in the character of solicitor, although they do not come into his hands in the particular cause in which he makes a demand of costs; or even although they were deposited for a particular purpose, but, after the failure of that purpose,

⁽¹⁾ Ross v. Laughton, 1 Ves. & Bea. 350.

⁽m) Cresswell v. Byron, ubi

⁽n) Merryweather v. Mellish, 18 Ves. 162; Mayne v.

Watts, 3 Swanst. 95; O'Dea v. O'Dea, 1 Sch. & Lef. 316.

⁽o) Commerell v. Poyntun, 1 Swanst. 2; Moir v. Mudie, 1 Sim. & Stu. 282.

purpose, or its completion, have been permitted to remain in his hands (p): for it may have been on the faith of the whole documents that he made the advances for his client. If, indeed, a tenant but not as against for life give deeds into an attorney's hands, the man, when the attorney has no lien on them for his costs as tenant for life of against the remainder-man; for that would be to the property to which the papers enable a tenant for life to charge the remainder. relate: man (q). And upon papers which he has obtained nor can the liest be claimed upon when acting in a different character, a solicitor papers obtained can claim no lien for business done as solicitor (r). character from So a solicitor, by taking a security, abandons his or where he has lien (s): this has, indeed, been doubted by the taken a distinct security. Court of King's Bench (t); but Lord Eldon, expressly adverting to that doubt, upon a subsequent occasion firmly adhered to his original opinion (u). And it is quite clear, that a solicitor can have no And a lies upon the will of lien upon his deceased client's will; for such a a deceased client claim, if admitted, might operate a fraud upon tained; the executor, and all persons claiming under the will (w). Nor can a solicitor refuse to produce nor can a solicia deed executed in his favor, in which deed a duce a revocable power of revocation is reserved: nor, upon the his favor; same principle, can he withhold from his client a or his client's will deposited will made by such client and deposited with him; with him; for the retention

a remainderclient was only

in a different

cannot be main-

tor refuse to prodeed executed in for might embarrass the alteration of

- (p) Ex parte Pemberton, 18 Ves. 282; Ex parte Sterling, 16 Ves. 258.
- (q) Ex parte Nesbitt, 2 Sch. & Lef. 279; Barnsley v. Powell, Ambl. 102.
- (r) Champernomn v. Scott. 6 Mad. 93.
- (s) Cowell v. Simpson, 16 Ves. 275.
- (t) Stevenson v. Blakelock, 1 Mau. & Sel. 544.
- (u) Balch v. Symes, 1 Turn. & Russ. 92.
- (w) Georges v. Georges, 18 Ves. 296.

those testamentary dispositions which ought to be ambulatory till death.

for it is essential to such an instrument that it may be altered even in articulo mortis (x): irrevocability would destroy its essence as a will (y); the most general of all maxims being, that voluntas testatoris ambulatoria est usque ad mortem (x); and it could only be with a view to the subversion of the axiom, that the retention of a will was attempted: if it did not operate to embarrass that testamentary disposition which, from its very nature, ought to be uncontrolled, the asserted lien in such a case could not have any operation at all.

By what acts a solicitor waves his lies on the papers of a bankrupt client:

A solicitor will be held to have relinquished his lien on papers in his hands, belonging to a bankrupt under whose commission he has proved his debt(a). The case would be still stronger if he had actually signed the bankrupt's certificate; as, by so doing, he may have influenced others to sign: thereby affecting the interests of the whole body of creditors. Under such circumstances he must, clearly, abide by his proof; and deliver up any security, or property, on which he might have maintained a claim of lien, had he not estopped himself by his election, and the acts done by virand in what case tue of his proof (b). But, where a solicitor, intinues, as against stead of proving under a commission against his the same extent client, has preferred bringing an action for the in which it would amount of his bill; the solicitor's lien, upon all deeds

the lien conthe assignees, to against the bankrupt.

Ves. 210.

⁽x) Balch v. Symes, ubi supra. (a) Exparte Hornby, Buck, (y) Hobson v. Blackburn, 1 354.

Addams, 278. (b) Exparte Solomon, 1 Glyn (z) Matthews v. Warner, 4 & Jameson, 27.

deeds and writings in his hands, may be maintained in respect of the costs of the action, as well as the original debt: unless it can be shewn, that, he improperly commenced the action for the sole purpose of increasing the costs for his own ad-If nothing of this kind appear, the lien will be available against the assignees, to the same extent as it would against the bankrupt (c).

For, a Court of Equity will not be disposed to The doctrine of relax the doctrine of lien, where it is fairly appli- ly relaxed, cable: the doctrine is, in fact, as advantageous to it being as adclients as to solicitors; for business is often trans-clients as to soacted by solicitors for needy clients, merely on licitors. the prospect of obtaining their costs by means of such lien(d). How far the doctrine of set off may supersede, or interfere with, the doctrine of doctrine of set off clashes with that lien, is a question upon which the Courts of of lien; King's Bench and of Common Pleas have held different opinions: the decisions of the first named Court being more favourable to the solicitor(e); those of the latter to the parties claiming a set off (f). But, the practice of the Court of Chancery has always been, that, when, in any Chancery, in arranging the departicular cause, comprising a number of ques-mands of its suitors, does justice tions, costs may ultimately be due to both parties, as between them, before it adverts and sums to be paid as duties to each; there the to the lien of the demands of both shall be arranged, so as to do particular suit;

How far the

The Court of

(c) Lambert v. Buckmaster, 2 Barnw. & Cressw. 618; S. C., 2 Dowl. & Ryl. 128.

Barn. & Ald. 46; Harrison v. Bainbridge, 3 Dowl. & Ryl. 365.

justice

⁽d) Ex parte Bryant, 1 Mad. **52**.

⁽e) 'Holroyd v. Breare, 4

⁽f) Browne v. Sayce, 4 Taunt. 322; Hall v. Ody, 2 Bos. & Pull. 29.

but does not allow the costs of different causes to be set off, in prejudice of the solicitor's lien.

In what cases a release of costs awarded, given by one party to the other, may oust the solicitor's lien.

justice between them: and the lien of the solicitor is only as to those costs which, upon the whole, taken together, his client can claim from the other (g). It does not, however, by any means follow, that, the costs of different causes can be set off against each other, to the prejudice of the solicitor's lien(h). An attorney cannot set off his bill without having delivered it (i).

If a defendant be bound by an award to pay costs to the plaintiff; a release of all demands, given by the plaintiff to the defendant, will not necessarily. oust the lien of the plaintiff's attorney upon the costs awarded: for the release may have been collusive (k). A fortiori, where no such release has been given, the lien may be made effectual, either at Law or in Equity (1). But, the case might be different where a good consideration for the release was proved (m).

An order upon a solicitor, whose services are discontinued, and whose bill is unpaid, for production of his client's papers, will, as far as the client only is concerned, be limited to their production in the existing suit; not extended to their unless the rights production in any other matter (n): but, though a solicitor may have a lien on a deed for his costs,

pers, limited to their production in the existing

tor to produce the client's pa-

An order on an unpaid solici-

of third persons are concerned:

> (g) Taylor v. Popham, 15 Ves. 75, 79; Ex parte Rhodes, 15 Ves. 541.

> (h). Wright v. Mudie, 1 Sim. & Stu. 267; Smith v. Brocklesby, 1 Anstr. 61; Gabbit v. Chaytor, 1 Anstr. 279.

> (i) Murphy v. Cunningham, 1 Anstr. 198.

(k) Gifford v. Gifford, Forrest's Exch. Rep. 110.

vet

(1) --- v. Bolton, 18 Ves. 292.

(m) Owen's Case, 2 Ves. Sen. 26.

(n) Ross v. Laughton, 1 Ves. & Bea. 350.

yet if his client be bound to produce it for the benefit of a third person, so must the solicitor; or those claiming through him (o): the lien is only as between him and his client; and must not interfere with the rights of other persons (p): otherwise, where there was a decree for a sale, or without this quaaccount, there might be collusion between the general rule client and solicitor, to lay an embargo upon the would leave an opening to collutitle deeds, and thereby prevent the sale of sion; estates; or upon papers, and thereby defeat the taking of accounts; which would, in fact, be making the solicitor more powerful than the Court. When, therefore, there are persons who have right antecedent to that of the solicitor, he cannot, as against them, justify a detainer of the papers: if he could, a heavier charge might be laid and, in some upon the deeds than the estate was worth; and burthen of costs the real owner might have to pay for transactions upon those who ought not to be to which he was an utter stranger; or which saddled with them. may even have been in direct hostility to his interests (q).

lification, the

If a solicitor die, during the progress of a cause, his personal representative cannot be compelled deceased solicitor survives to to deliver the papers in the cause to another so-his personal representative. licitor.

The lien of a

(o) Ex parte Moule, 5 Mad. 465; Fenwick v. Reed, 1 Meriv. 122, 126: but in collateral cases, the mode of proceeding is, not by applying for an order, but, by serving a subpæna duces tecum, as in the case of any other witness in possession of a deed;

Busk v. Lawis, 6 Mad. 29; Brassington v. Brassington, 1 Sim. & Stu. 454.

- (p) Furlong v. Howard, 2 Sch. & Lef. 115.
- (q) Marsh v. Bathoe, Ridgw. Ca. in Cha. temp. Hardwicke, 256.

licitor, before security be given for the discharge of the *lien* thereon (r).

Extent of solicitor's lien.

tected against a fraudulent compromise between opposite party.

A solicitor's lien does not extend to general debts; but only to those due to him in his professional character (s): and his lien on a fund recovered in a cause, attaches only in respect of who will be pro- costs incurred in such cause (t). If, after money has been paid into Court, the parties settle the promue between matter in debate, and the plaintiff seeks, without the knowledge of the solicitor on the other side, to have the bill dismissed and the money paid out of Court; on the application of the solicitor for the defendant, part of the money will be ordered to be attached to answer his bill of fees and disbursements (u): for a client will not be allowed to cheat his attorney, by entering into a collusive Bill for agency settlement behind his back (w). The solicitor in a cause may, it seems, move to have his own agent's bill taxed (x); although this point appears, in more than one instance, to have been decided

> differently (y): an application, however, by the client, to have the bill of costs of the agent em-

may be taxed, on the application of the attorney immediately employed, but not of the client.

- (r) Magrath v. Lord Muskerry, 1 Ridgw. Ca. in Parl. 476; Redfearn v. Sowerby, 1 Swanst. 84.
- (s) Worrall v. Johnson, 2 Jac. & Walk. 218.
- (t) Lann v. Church, 4 Mad. 392.
- (u) Fairland v. Enever, 1 Dick. 114.
 - (w) Cole v. Bennett, 6 Price,
- 18; and see Brookes v. Bourne, 1 Price, 73; Pope v. Wood, 2 Anstr. 578; Gifford v. Gifford, Forrest's Exch. Rep. 110.

ployed

- (x) Corner v. Hake, 2 Cox, 173; Ex parte Bearcroft, 1 Dougl. 200, note; Paget v. Nicholson, 1 Dick. 285.
- (y) Anonym. 1 Wils. 266; Binstead v. Barefoot, 1 Dick. 112.

ployed by his solicitor taxed, will be unsuccessful(z). A town agent may be entitled to a lien The lien of a upon money recovered in a suit, for expenses in-limited; curred by him in the prosecution of that particular suit; but he can maintain no lien upon such money, the property of the suitor, for the general balance due to him by the country attorney, whose agent he is (a). The town agent may obtain an order, that the suitor shall not pay the country solicitor's bill, without the consent of the town agent (b); and, to that extent, though he and to what excannot intervene with his claim of lien as against able: the client directly, he may do so as against the solicitor employed by him: in Equity, before the papers are taken from him, he has at least a right to the money due to him in respect of that cause (c). A client cannot be compelled to pay over again, to the clerk in Court, costs which he has once Court. paid to the solicitor; the clerk in Court, however, will not be ordered to deliver up any papers which have come to his hands in the course of the cause (d). And, where the client has not paid the costs to his solicitor, it seems, that, the clerk in Court may, in Equity, pray payment of his bill of costs, either against the solicitor, or the client; though he could not proceed at Law against the client, for want of a retainer (e).

tent made avail-

Rules as to the

It

⁽z) Wildbore v. Bryan, 8 Price, 680.

⁽a) Moody v. Spencer, 2 Dowl. & Ryl. 7.

⁽b) Ward v. Hepple, 15 Ves. 298.

⁽c) Ex parte Steele, 16 Ves. 164; Farewell v. Coker, 2 P.

Wms. 460; Bray v. Hine, 6 Price, 210.

⁽d) Last cited case.

⁽e) Anonym. Mosely, 172.

In what cases a solicitor has been allowed to conduct a suit against parties who have previously been his clients;

Objection to

discountenanced by Lord Eldon.

į

It has been held, that, a solicitor who has, to a limited extent only, been employed by all the defendants in an amicable suit in Chancery, will not, (in case disputes between the parties in that suit should subsequently arise,) be prevented from acting as solicitor in any other suit against some of his former clients: provided it do not appear, that any important confidential matter has been disclosed to him, the knowledge of which he might unfairly use to the prejudice of his original employers (f). This decision, however, is open to one strong objection; it does not rest upon a general principle, but on particular circumstances; which it may be impossible to rebut, without making that discovery, which it may be the very object of the former client to avoid, and which his application, in its nature, protests against (g); Lord Eldon has said, that, he recollected many instances, both as to counsel and attornies, in which it was extremely difficult for a man to hold. he could with propriety be employed in both causes; and with regard to that, quod dubitas ne feceris, is a good rule for the regulation of conduct. His Lordship added, that, he did not recollect an instance of a solicitor changing his situation from the plaintiff: and a case might easily be put, that a most honest man, so changing his situation, might communicate a fact, appearing to have no connexion with the case, and yet the whole title of his former client might depend upon it.

⁽f) Robinson v. Mullett, 4 (g) Cholmondeley v. Clinton, Coop. 86.

it. It may be doubted whether, as against a client who, having employed solicitors in partnership, two or more has a right to their united exertions, the solici-partners as his solicitors, should tors are at liberty to dissolve their partnership, the partnership, be dissolved, no and turn the client over to one of them, (it should retiring partner seem they have not, as against him, the power of to act professiondissolving their partnership (h);) but, however former client. that may be, a retiring partner can never be considered as a discharged solicitor. The client after such dissolution of partnership cannot employ both; and it would be impossible to maintain, that, if he employ one, the other is let loose, and discharged from all those obligations which he had undertaken. A solicitor under such circumstances, if retained against his former client, must (however high his personal character,) be considered, hypothetically, as employed for no other reason except the very improper one, that he had been previously employed by the other party; and, upon the clearest general principle, that cannot be admitted (i).

Professional men must be strictly held to such accuracy as to give security to their employers; and although they are not excluded from the rea- lapse of time as sonable protection which fair principles of pre- the circumstansumption and prescription may afford, yet, the will be closely circumstances of each case must be considered; investigated. and a law agent, continuing to act for his client, may, after a lapse of many years, be made responsible for a loss occasioned by his neglect, although

When a client has employed

Law agents are not excluded from setting up a defence; but ces of the case

the

⁽h) Cook v. Rhodes, in note to 19 Ves. 278.

⁽i) Cholmondeley v. Clinton, 19 Ves. 267, 273, 275.

the client, being an embarrassed man, made no remonstrance, notwithstanding he was aware of the transaction; and even after a settlement of accounts with his representatives, and a discharge given by them, provided it was so given before they discovered the facts (k).

Solicitor must not serve his client by unfair means:

he may be called to a purchaser from his client, the injuries aris lent concealment, or misrepresentation, on his part.

A solicitor must not take upon himself to omit any covenant originally agreed upon:

A solicitor must cautiously avoid letting his zeal for his client carry him so far as to lead him to assist such client in an act of injustice (1): or to give false intimation respecting a cause to the opposite party (m). A solicitor employed in on to make good, transacting the sale of an estate, who, knowing of incumbrances thereon, treats on behalf of his ing from fraudu-client for the sale, without disclosing the incumbrances to the purchaser, (knowing him to be a stranger thereto,) but makes such a representation as induces the buyer to trust his money on the security; may, in Equity, be liable to make satisfaction for any injury sustained in consequence of his fraudulent concealment and misrepresentation (n): And where, upon a contract of sale, a draft of a conveyance has been prepared by the agent of one party, the solicitor of the other party must not take upon himself to omit. in the ingrossment of the conveyance, any one of the covenants contained in the original draft. without communicating such omission to the . agent

⁽k) Macdonald v. Macdonald, 1 Bligh, 336.

⁽¹⁾ Bowles v. Stewart, 1 Sch. & Lef. 227; Ex parte Stokes, 7 Ves. 407.

⁽m) Kimpton v. Eve, 2 Ves. & Bea. 352.

⁽n) Arnot v. Biscoe, 1 Ves. Senr. 95.

agent on the other side. Whether the covenant was, in point of conveyancing skill, properly struck out, or not, will be immaterial; the departure from the correct line of professional conduct will, at least, be visited by the infliction of the costs incurred in setting that right (o). If an attorney, he is answerable through mere negligence, cause his client to ac- for gross negligence; cept a bad security, such laches may subject the attorney to damages at law: if the transaction be mixed up with fraud as well as negligence, relief may properly be sought in Equity (p). solicitor prepare a fraudulent deed, which he has the costs of setthe means of knowing to be such, it will be no ting aside any fraudulent deed, sufficient excuse for him, to say—he merely fol-though prepared in pursuance of lowed his instructions: and if the deed contain instructions; as any thing for his own benefit, this additional cir- abled from holdcumstance will make it quite clear that he ought quential benefit to pay the costs of any suit necessary to set aside to himself. such fraudulent deed(q); as well as be disabled from holding any benefit which he has bargained for, as the price of his assistance in the fraudulent transaction (r).

If a and he will subwell as be dis-

Should a solicitor advise a bill to be filed for the administration of the assets of a testator, whose ndence in a solicitor, by advising sole executor he himself is; and continue to act a suit for his own ends; and, when as the solicitor of the plaintiffs in such suit; but, instituted, con-

Abuse of conducting it in

(o) Staines v. Morris, 1 Ves. & Bea. 15: see Rob v. Buttermick, 2 Price, 197.

(p) Brooks v. Day, 2 Dick. 572: and gross negligence may subject a solicitor to summary punishment by attachment, in

Equity as well as at Law; Lloyd v. Nangle, 1 Dick. 129. See post, p. 44.

abusing

(q) Bennett v. Vade, 2 Atk.

(r) Phayre v. Peres, 3 Dow. 127, 130.

fraudulent perversion of the practice of the Court.

abusing the confidence reposed in him, neglect. for an unreasonable length of time, to put in his answer to the bill filed upon his recommendation: such conduct will be strong evidence of a scheme to retain in his own hands the personal estate of his testator. A Court of Equity will not permit such a gross abuse of its practice; and, on motion, the party will be ordered to put in answer within a week, or stand committed (s).

What authority to act a solicitor ought to require;

fraudulently to introduce a name upon the record. a misdemeanour.

A plaintiff. whose name has been used without authority, may be ordered to pay costs to the defendants:

remedy over, against the solicitor.

A solicitor must have a special authority to institute, although a general authority be sufficient to enable him to defend, a suit: and the solicitor can only secure himself from the risk of having to pay all expenses incurred, by having a written authority (t): for if a man were allowed to introduce another's name upon the record without clear authority, combinations might be formed for the most fraudulent purposes (u); and if any such attempt appear, the solicitor may be proceeded against as for a misdemeanour (w). plaintiff's name, used without authority, stand upon the record down to the hearing, although without his knowledge, he must pay costs, if the bill be dismissed with costs; for the defendants but will have his would be as free from blame as himself: he will. however, have his remedy over, against the solicitor; who will be ordered to reimburse him, not A person name merely taxed, but, full costs (x). Where a solicitor

has

⁽s) Mootham v. Hale, 3 Ves. & Bea. 92.

⁽t) Wright v. Castle, 3 Mer. 12.

⁽u) Dundas v. Dutens, 1 Ves. Jun. 200.

⁽w) Ex parte Stuckey, 2 Cox, 284.

⁽x) Dundas v. Dutens, ubi supra; Wade v. Stanley, 1 Jac. & Walk. 675. See infra.

has instituted a suit on behalf of an infant, and ed without his named a prochein amy, without obtaining his consent; if, on a reference to the Master the suit is of an infant, liable to costs, if, dismissed, as not being for the infant's benefit; on reference to the Master, the the costs must be paid by the party who appears bill is dismissed; on the record as the prochein amy, and who, in that stage of the suit, must be considered as such; he must make a direct application against the so- but may have licitor, if he acted improperly (y). If a person relief over. who is made a co-plaintiff without authority will of lackes, a suitacquiesce in it, and lie by for a length of time without authoribefore he makes any application to the Court, his struck out; but name ought not, then, to be struck out; as it dered to give might tend to derange a cause, in other respects nity. properly instituted, and impede the hearing: the order, therefore, will be, that the solicitor should indemnify the party, whose name has been improperly used, both as to his own costs, and, also, as to any costs which may be recovered by the defendants (z).

It is clear, that, at Law, an attorney may bind his principal by submission to an award, by rule torney may bind his principal, by of Nisi Prius (a): and even when the attorney submission to an has done so without authority, the client's only remedy is by action against his attorney (b). remedy is by action against his attorney (b). But, $q_{uare, whether}$ whether solicitors have the same power of binding the same rule prevails in their principals in Courts of Equity is question- Equity?

In what cases ty, will not be him an indem-

⁽y) Whittaker v. Marlar, 1 Cox, 286.

⁽z) Titterton v. Osborne, 1 Dick. 351; Wilson v. Wilson, 1 Jac. & Walk. 458, 459.

⁽a) Bacon v. Dubary, Skin.

^{679;} Rex v. Addington, Sayer, 259.

⁽b) Filmer v. Delber, 3 Taunt. 486; Barker v. Braham, 3 Wils. 374, 378; and see Dwvall v. Terry, Show. P. C. 16.

able: in an early case, it was said, that, although the consent of solicitors shall bind their clients in interlocutory orders, yet it shall not bind in orders of award for final determination: however. it was, in the same case, resolved, that, the solicitor should not pay costs for his assent; the Court having, by its order, shewn its opinion that the In what cases matter was proper for reference (c). If an attorney enter into an undertaking, on behalf of his client, without due authority, this is a fraud: and taking on behalf the attorney must himself make good his undertaking: but, if he had authority to make the engagement, no personal responsibility attaches to him, and the client, alone, is bound by the engagement (d).

an attorney becomes personally responsible, by giving an underof his client.

Solicitor only answerable for such negligence as affords inference of fraud.

Duties of a solicitor to a commission of bankrupt;

An attorney who has put out his client's money on defective security, will not be compelled to make good the loss, even (it seems,) although he might, by diligent inquiry, have ascertained the state of the title; unless he has been guilty of such gross negligence as amounts to fraud (e).

If a creditor of a bankrupt be appointed solicitor to the commission, he is as much bound to protect the estate against his own demands as against those of any other person: and where one partner is the petitioning creditor, another an acting commissioner, another the solicitor to the commission, and the remaining one the sole assignee.

⁽c) Colwell v. Child, 2 Freem. 154; S. C. 1 Ch. Ca. 86.

⁽d) Johnson v. Ogilby, 3 P. Wms. 278.

⁽e) Luke v. Bridges & Christy, Prec. in Cha. 149; S.C. on appeal, Colles, P. C. 140: see ante, p. 41.

nee, there is such an opportunity for fraudulent collusion that the commission will not be allowed to stand (f). By the thirteenth section of the consolidated bankrupt act, it is enacted, that, the pe-disbursements of titioning creditor shall prosecute a commission at a commission are to be paid by the his own cost, up to the choice of assignees, and be assignees: how reimbursed out of the first money, got in under taxed: but, the commission: and, all fees or disbursements of the attorney's deany solicitor or attorney employed under any com- mand for business done up to the mission, shall be settled by the commissioners; choice of assigprovided such bills do not contain any charge re- made, exclusivespecting any action at Law or suit in Equity, in toning creditor? which case the same is to be settled by the proper officer of the Court in which the business contained in such bill, or the greatest part in amount and value thereof, shall have been transacted: and the same so settled shall be paid by the assignees to such solicitor or attorney, provided that any creditor who shall have proved to the amount of 201. or upwards, if he be dissatisfied with such settlement by the commissioners, may have the same settled by a Master in Chancery, who shall receive for such settlement, and the certificate thereof, twenty shillings. But, although the latter part of the section, applies, generally, to all fees or disbursements by a solicitor employed under a commission, it seems not entirely to set at rest the doubt, very recently entertained (g), whether a solicitor

The fees and a solicitor under they are to be nees must not be

⁽f) Ex parte Story, Buck, 74; see, under the proper head, that, a person who, acts as solicitor under a commission of

Lunacy cannot be appointed receiver of the estate.

⁽g) Ex parte Haynes, 1 Glyn & Jameson, 36: and see Ex

solicitor could be allowed to present a petition. that the assignees may be ordered to pay his bill of costs, up to the choice of such assignees, as taxed by the commissioners: or whether his demand is not exclusively against the petitioning creditors for business done up to that time. However. though it appears not to be clearly settled, whether a solicitor's bill of costs, up to the choice of assignees, is to be paid to the petitioning creditor, and by him handed over to the solicitor; or whether the solicitor is at liberty, instead of making a personal demand upon the petitioning creditor, to apply to the Court for an order upon the assignees to pay his bill, up to that period; it is at least certain, that the assignees must pay the bill to one party or the other, out of the first monies received under the commission: and it has been declared to be not of course to refer to the Master, a bill for such preliminary business, which has been taxhas been held not ed by the commissioners; but particular objecit to the Master. tions ought to be stated. If, indeed, the solicitor, by refusing a copy of his bill to the creditor applying for the reference, renders it impracticable for him to state specific objections to particular charges, the order of reference will, on that ground, be made (h): and, with respect to creditors for more than 201. their right to such reference, without stating any particular grounds, is recognized by the above cited section of the statute of 5 Geo. 4, c. 98. When

When a bill for such preliminary business has been taxed by the commissioners it of course to refer

> (h) Ex parte Sutton, 4 Mad. parte Hartop, 9 Ves. 159; 395; Ex parte Brereton, 4 Ex parte Johnson, 1 Glyn & Jameson, 24. Mad. 479.

When a commission of bankruptcy is taken out. which has its foundation in nothing but fiction and must not lend his aid to a commisfraud; a solicitor cannot more pointedly shew that sion of bankrupt he forgets his duty, than by lending himself to bly fictitious. such a fraudulent purpose. The Court expects a reasonable degree of diligent inquiry by the solicitor, whether there is a petitioning creditor's debt, and an act of bankruptcy; but the object of preventing fraud will not be carried to such a degree of strictness as would raise difficulties against a solicitor, fairly endeavouring to satisfy himself whether, though doubts appear, they may not be overcome. Where fraud, however, or mischievous negligence, in suing out a commission, are established against a solicitor, he may be made to pay the costs of the proceedings (i). With respect to the messenger employed in working a solicitor is percommission of bankruptcy, (it has been determined ble for the fees at Law), the solicitor is not, in general, to be con- employed in sidered as a principal, responsible for payment of working a comthe messenger's charges. The messenger, it was said, must be aware he is not the principal; and may, upon the opening of the commission, ascertain who is the petitioning creditor: and the mere fact that the solicitor is the medium through which it is convenient for the messenger to receive his fees, will not make him a principal (j). Erskine seems to have thought differently; but his

Whether the sonally responsi-

⁽i) Ex parte Arrowsmith, 14 (j) Hartop v. Juckes, 2 Ves. 210; Ex parte Heywood, Mau. & Sel. 439. 13 Ves. 69.

his Lordship was not called upon to decide the ge-

If a solicitor bring an action for taxed costs, without deducting the costs of, taxation when ed.

neglect to tax a solicitor's bill of costs.

a creditor may petition for that purpose:

if the bill be high, it is of course to refer it for taxation,

neral question, as, in the case before him, the messenger had done acts distinctly recognizing the petitioning creditor as the principal on whose behalf he was employed (k). On the other hand, it was not doubted, in the case at Law just cited. that, by special agreement, the solicitor may make When, after an order himself personally liable. made in bankruptcy referring a solicitor's bill to be taxed, reserving the costs of taxation, the costs are taxed, and more than one sixth of the bill dethereto, his ac-livered is taken off; if an action be brought by the tion will be stay-solicitor for the solicitor for the amount of the taxed costs, not deducting the costs of the taxation, the action will be stayed: and it will be referred to the Master to tax the costs of the taxation of the bill delivered. and deduct the same from the amount of the taxed costs; which costs, after such deduction, will be If the assignees ordered to be paid to the solicitor (1). Should the assignees be guilty of a clear dereliction of their duty, in neglecting to tax the bill of costs of the solicitor employed in working the commission; a creditor may present a petition for that purpose. taking care to serve the assignees with the petition(m). Where a solicitor's bill of costs incurred in the prosecution of a commission is very high, it is quite of course to refer it for taxation, although no specific item of improper charge is pointed out:

⁽k) Ex parte Hartop, 12 Ves. 353.

⁽¹⁾ Ex parte Bellot, 4 Mad.

^{380;} and see Ex parte Westall, 3 Ves. & Bea. 141.

⁽m) Ex parte Walker, 1 Glyn & Jameson, 95.

out (n): and this may be done even after payment, even after payand the death of the assignee who paid it (o). order to prevent improper petitions in bankrupt- bankruptcy affecting solicitors cy from being presented, and to enable the Chan- who act for peticellor to make the solicitor, where the case calls for it, pay the costs of such petition; a General Order (p) has been issued, directing every attorney, who acts for a petitioner, to sign his name to the petition. Of course, the solicitor is not to be answerable for the success of every petition; for the facts may be misrepresented to him, and the law may not be obvious: but the Order is directed against solicitors who present unfounded petitions with fraudulent or interested views (q).

An agreement between the solicitors of parties, who have submitted their claims to reference, that, agement of a reference by the the arbitrators shall have no instructions in writ-agreement of the ing, is very like a fraud, upon which relief might several parties. be had even at common Law. But the fact, that, the award was prepared by the solicitor for one of the parties, though indelicate, is no ground, by correct, that the award should be itself, for setting aside the award (r). For, though prepared by the solicitor on either Lord Eldon has declared, that, a general rule, side; northat, in forbidding a solicitor, by himself or his partner, to same solicitor be employed on both sides, would be extremely should be employed for all beneficial; and that many instances of great abuse parties; but the

tioners.

Improper mansolicitors for the

any cause, the practice not abhave solutely prohibited.

⁽n) Ex parte Emery, Buck, 422.

⁽o) Ex parte Neale, Buck,

⁽p) Dated the 12th of Aug. 1809.

⁽q) Ex parte Cuthbert, 1 Mad. 79; and see Ex parte Stokes, 7 Ves. 407.

⁽r) Fetherstone v. Cooper, 9 Ves. 68.

have arisen from the contrary practice; still it has not been thought convenient, upon the whole, to put an end to that practice. And the reasons for its continuance are strong; for if every creditor. or legatee, were bound to employ a different solicitor, the costs would tear the estate to pieces (s). It is, however, very clear, that, whenever a person Equity will give entrusted to act as attorney for all parties, abuses the confidence placed in him; this is a fraud which gives ample ground for the interference of Equity (t).

but if the confidence be abused, relief.

What bills of a solicitor are subject to taxbills are not.

The costs of a solicitor for attending the House of Lords, in a cause, are, of course, subject to auon by the Master; and what taxation: but there is a great difference between this, and soliciting an Act of Parliament, which business may be done by any one. A bill, where no business has been done in any cause, is not subject to taxation in Courts of Equity: for, there is no criterion by which their officer can be enabled to tax such costs; or any means to which he might resort for assistance (u). The same reason applies to the taxation of costs of proceedings under a Commission of Review of a sentence of the Court of Delegates; the application for such a commission is made, not to the Lord Chancellor, but, to His Majesty in Council, and though, by an order of council, the matter is referred to the Lord Chancellor, still the Court of Chancery

p. 41.

⁽s) Dyott v. Anderton, 3 (u) Ex parte Wheeler, 3 Ves. & Bea. 23; Williams v. Ves. & Bea. 178. (t) Costigan v. Hastler, 2 Odell, 4 Pr. 281. Sch. & Lef. 165: and see ante,

Chancery has no officer to tax the costs of such a proceeding (v). On similar principles, a solicitor's bill for business done, in the affairs of a charity of royal foundation, before the Lord Chancellor, as exercising the visitatorial power, is not within the statute for taxing bills of costs; for such proceedings are not before the Chancellor as exercising his equitable jurisdiction; but, in his personal capacity, as the ministerial officer of the Crown (w). And, with respect to a solicitor's bill for business done in the Court of Great Sessions in Wales. where nothing beyond costs is in dispute, the bill cannot be directed to be taxed by a Court of Equity. But, where business in the Court of Great Sessions has been done by a solicitor, who refuses to deliver up the deeds and papers in his possession; there, as a Court of Equity clearly has jurisdiction to order him to deliver up the deeds and papers, taxation is, for the solicitor's sake, consequent upon such order. To do justice between the parties, it is necessary, that the solicitor's lien for costs should be discharged, before the papers are taken out of his hands; and, to ascertain the amount of such lien, taxation is requisite (x).

The general rule adopted by Courts for their guidance in exercising summary jurisdiction over by which Courts are guided, in their officers, seems to be this; where an attorney exercising or refusing to exeris employed in a matter wholly unconnected with cise, summary

The principle his their officers:

⁽v) Ex parte Fearon, 5 Ves. (x) Ex parte Partridge, 2 Meriv. 501; Ex parte the

Earl of Uzbridge, 6 Ves. 425. (w) Ex parte Dan, 9 Ves. 548.

and the usual course as to directing taxation. his professional character, no summary interference will be exercised. But, where the employment is so connected with his professional character, as to afford a presumption that such character formed the ground of his employment by the client, there Courts will exercise a summary jurisdiction over their own officers (v). usual course, in Courts of Law as well as in Equity, is to order the whole of a solicitor's bill to be taxed, when any part of it concerns business done in that Court to which the application is made; and it makes no difference whether part of it was done on behalf of several other persons, as well as the party applying (z): but items for agency business can only be taxed on the application of the attorney immediately employed; not, as we have seen, at the suit of the client in the cause (a).

A settlement, and even long positive bar to a subsequent examination of accounts between solicitor and client;

took place, and such acqui-

Accounts between solicitor and client stand acquiescence, no upon different grounds from those between unconnected parties (b): that which between others would be a conclusive settlement, is not so between them; settlement, and payment, of a bill, even though a long subsequent period may have elapsed, is not conclusive against an examination if such settlement of the fairness of the demand. If the settlement was made during the pendency of the suit, the client

- (y) In the matter of Aikin, 4 Barn. & Ald. 49.
- (z) Margerum v. Sandiford, 3 Br. 234; Hill v. Humphries, 2 Bos. & Pull. 345; and see post, p. 55.
- (a) Wildbore v. Bryan, 8 Price, 680.
- (b) Walmsley v. Booth, 2 Atk. 29; Newman v. Payne, 2 Ves. Jun. 201; Saunderson v. Glass, 2 Atk. 297.

client must have been, in some measure, under escence lasted, the management and control of his solicitor; and was in any demay have felt it difficult to extricate himself from gree under the control of the one possessing a knowledge of his whole case: a solicitor. settlement under such circumstances does not bar taxation (c).

The statute of 2 Geo. 2, c. 23, s. 23, restrains an attorney from bringing any action for costs, an attorney may until his bill has been delivered a month: but all take out a commission of bankhis remedies, not specially taken away by the act, rupt, founded on remain just as before; and he may take out a business done, commission of bankruptcy without delivering his delivered his billbill. It is true, a commission cannot be taken out upon an equitable debt; but an attorney's demand in respect of business done by him, is in its nature a legal debt, though the directions of the statute may not have been satisfied, so as to support an There may be a hardship in permitting action. an attorney to take out a commission upon a demand which may be reduced by taxation: but in many cases there might be great hardship upon him, if this remedy were restrained; which, at all events, it is not by the statute, and, therefore, it remains open to him(d).

Notwithstanding the statute, his demand for before he has

On a reference to the Master to tax a solicitor's bill of costs, the Court has, by virtue of the ation under the statute: statute (e), a discretion to charge the solicitor with the costs of the reference, even if the taxed hill

Costs of tax-

see post, p. 56, 57.

⁽c) Crossley v. Parker, 1 Jac. & Walk. 462; Aubrey v. Popkin, 1 Dick. 404; Langstaffe v. Taylor, 14 Ves. 263; Lewes v. Morgan, 5 Price, 56:

⁽d) Ex parte Sutton, 11 Ves. 164; Anonym. Mosely,

⁽e) Stat. 2 Geo. 2, c. 23,

bill shall not be less by one sixth than the bill delivered; where the bill is reduced a sixth part, the statute is imperative that the costs of taxation must be borne by the solicitor (f). Even when the Court does not think fit to refuse him the costs of taxation; if any attendant proceedings, creating useless expence, have been introduced by the solicitor, he will be ordered to pay such part of the costs thereby created as may appear reasonable (x). And where a solicitor has been guilty of great delay in giving in his bills, the Court has refused him the costs of taxation, though less than one sixth has been taken off (h): or made him pay the costs of the reference, when he has neglected, for an unreasonable time, to act upon it; and the bills have been lost in the Master's office (i). Although a very small proportion only of a bill, as given in to the Master, may be taken off; vet, if the bill, as first delivered to the client, contained an item of such a nature that the attorney thought prudent to omit it, in the account finally brought in; without imputing fraud to the attorney, the delivery of such a different bill will be held to have justified suspicion in the mind of the client, whose application for a taxation, under such circumstances, will not be punished with costs (j). Iŧ

⁽f) There must be some mistake in the report of Yea v. Yea, 2 Anstr. 494; which ascribes to the Court a discretion, only in the very case in which none is given by the statute.

⁽g) Yea v. Frere, 14 Ves. 155.

⁽h) Yea v. Yea, 2 Anstr. 589.

⁽i) Yea v. Yea, 2 Anstr. 495.

⁽j) Webb v. Stone, 1 Anstr. 260.

It should be understood, also, that, indepen- and independent dently of the statute, Courts of Equity have, virtue of the geunder their general jurisdiction, authority to refer of Equity. bills of costs for taxation, upon motion by a party in the cause in which the costs were incurred; and it will make no difference, though the bill include charges for business in other matters (k): the same principle is adopted in bankruptcy (l). And a Crown solicitor may not only be ordered to pay be taxed, and he the costs of taxing his bill, but, when he has re- may be charged, not only with the tained the whole amount of such bill, as delivered, costs of taxation, but, with interest out of sums paid to him on account, he may be upon any sum ordered to pay interest for the balance, reported beyond the by the Master to be due from him, in consequence bill, as reduced of the disallowance of the sums taxed off: for a by the items disallowed by the soliciter who, from his office, is called upon to Master. enforce the rights of the Crown, should understand that he has the further duty east upon him-of a due regard for the rights and interests of the subject: he will, also, be equally responsible for the conduct of those employed by him, as for his own conduct; and it will be quite immaterial whether he has, or has not, made any interest of the balance improperly retained in his hands (20). An attorney, like any other person. may take a mortgage, ab ante, for money advanced cannot take a mortgage securi. and to be advanced; but he cannot take such a ty, ab ante, to security from his client for the payment of future costs for business

A Crown solicitor's bill may retained by him,

An attorney to be done by bills him.

⁽k) Bignot v. Bignot, 11 Ves. 828; the King v. Bach, 9 Price, 354: See aute, p. 52.

⁽l) Ex parte Arrowsmith, 13 Ves. 125.

⁽m) The King v. Bach, ubi supra, p. 355.

limitations ap-

An attorney must not take a gift from his client, though professedly in lieu of payment of his bill; arising from the ed; then, if the transaction has been perfectly fair, it may be supported.

Not of course to refer a bill of after payment and long acquiescence;

in what cases it may be done.

bills of costs, in respect of business to be subse-The statute of quently done (n). It has been resolved, that, the plies to attornies' statute of limitations will extend to attornies' bills, though they are things done of record (o).

An attorney (as was intimated, at the commencement of this title,) cannot take a gift from his client, whilst the latter is in his hands (p), although such gift profess to be in lieu of payment until all influence of his bill: for there would be no bounds to the relation has ceas- crushing influence of an attorney who has the concerns of a man under his direction, if the rule were not so: but once extricate the client, and shew that there has been no misunderstanding of the effect of the transaction on his part, nor any misrepresentation as to the value of the gift, or otherwise, on the part of the attorney; and the act may be sustained (q). And, certainly, when costs for taxation, a bill of costs has been settled and paid, and the payment long acquiesced in, a Court of Equity will not refer that bill to be taxed, as a matter of If it be shewn, by affidavit, that the bucourse. siness has not been done, or that the charges are fraudulent; then, neither a security given, nor actual payment made, nor a release (r), nor a judgment acknowledged (s) for the demand, will preclude

- (n) Pitcher v. Rigby, 9 Price, 85.
- (o) Vaughan v. Guy, Mosely,
- (p) Goddard v. Carlisle, 9 Price, 182: ante, p. 53.
- (q) Welles v. Middleton, 1 Cox, 125; Montesquieu v. Sandys, 18 Ves. 313; Morse
- v. Royal, 12 Ves. 372; Harris v. Tremenheere, 15 Ves. 39; Gibson v. Jeyes, 6 Ves. 271, 278.
- (r) Hazard v. Lane, Meriv. 291.
- (s) Drapers' Company Davis, 2 Atk. 295.

preclude taxation: but where there has been great delay in making the complaint, there should be an affidavit, bringing forward a special case of exorbitant and improper charges; for, whilst shewing specific grounds for the ample protection will be given to the client, pro-interference of the Court, retection is, on the other hand, also due to the of- quired; for proficer of the Court (t): a temperate and just con- the solicitor, as sideration, therefore, must be applied to each client case. If gross errors, charges amounting to imposition and fraud, are distinctly pointed out, the Court will open the whole account; but, when there has been long acquiescence, although the charges may be in some respects improper, if they do not amount to fraud, the Court will not direct a taxation, after a formal settlement, and security given, or actual payment made (u). We have seen, above, that according to Lord Hardwicke's attorney's bill decision, a judgment entered up in pursuance of a taxed after verwarrant of attorney, is not a bar to taxation: but, the full amount? whether an attorney's bill can be taxed after a quere verdict for the full amount; and whether any distinction, in this respect, ought to be made between a verdict obtained by default, and one given after a full and solemn trial, seems not to be quite settled. The preponderance of authority, however, as well as of equitable principle, appears to be against allowing a party first to take his chance of a trial, and afterwards permitting him to come to the

An affidavit. interference of tection is due to

ought to be

⁽t) Plenderleath v. Fraser, 3 Ves. & Bea. 175; Langstaffe v. Taylor, 14 Ves. 264; Pistor v. Dunbar, 1 Anstr. 188.

⁽u) Cooke v. Setree, 1 Ves. & Bea. 127; Plenderleath v. Fraser, 3 Ves. & Bea. 176.

the Court to reduce the quantum found (v). in one very recent case, the Court of King's Bench, though with great reluctance, and observing, that they were by no means disposed to encourage the practice of taxing an attorney's bill after verdict, did yet allow it to be done (w).

An attorney, by merely indorsing a bill drawn in his favor, for sums due to his employer, is not liable in respect of such indorsement, ployer, or to a has taken the bill with full knowledge of the circumstances;

Where the general and immediate agent of an administrator has employed a solicitor, at a distance, as local agent for the purpose of getting in debts due to the estate, which is the subject of administration: should the solicitor, in order to make either to his em- a remittance to his employer more conveniently, third person who procure a banker's bill, which is by inadvertence drawn in his own favor, so as to make it necessary he should indorse it, but without any intention to warrant its payment by so doing, Equity will restrain an action commenced against him in respect of such indorsement; whether the action be commenced by the employer, or by a banker with whom the bill has been deposited, and who has given the employer credit for the amount, provided the banker can be shewn to have been acquainted with the circumstances of the transaction, and the relative situation of the parties (x): but, a solicitor will not be held entitled to the interference of a Court of Equity, to protect him from an action upon a promissory note, given by him to his client, who, as the solicitor alleges, is largely indebted to him for professional services. Supposing

but a solicitor's claims in respect of professional services, cannot raise a case of mutual account; though they may be a proper subject of set off.

> (v) Hewitt v. Ferneley, 7 Price, 236; Hooper v. Till, Dougl. 199; and see Thwaites v. Piper, 3 Dowl. & Ryl. 195.

(w) Nuttall v. Marr, 3 Dowl. & Ryl. 38.

(x) Kidson v. Dilmorth, 5 Price, 572, 575.

Supposing the fact to be so, it still constitutes nothing like a mutual account; to raise which, there must be monies paid, or accounted for, on both sides: the demand is more properly a subject of set off, and that is the course which the solicitor should pursue (y).

(y) Hurst v. Peirse, 4 Price, 345.

CHAPTER III.

Fraud in prosecuting, or delaying (by connivance or otherwise) the Prosecution of Suits:—as, also, by improperly resisting, or delaying the satisfaction of just demands; - or insisting on undue charges in taking accounts;—and in matters of Practice, generally.

In what case the Court will stop a suit,

by the defendant.

IN order to save unnecessary expense, Courts of Equity will, at any time, stop a suit, when a defendant submits to satisfy the plaintiff's just demands (a): for, in such case, it would be mere oppression in the plaintiff to desire to go on with guarding against the cause. But, on the other hand, if the defendof the indulgence ant, in fraud of his tendered submission, omit to discharge the plaintiff's demand, with taxed costs, at the time appointed by the Court; the defendant will render himself liable for the costs of all proceedings consequent on the order made upon his application, and the plaintiff will be at liberty to renew proceedings in the cause (b).

A creditor may prosecute a

Great mischief may happen by the neglect of decree, when the parties, whose proper business it is, to execute a decree:

⁽a) Praed v. Hull, 1 Sim. (b) Boys v. Ford, 4 Mad. 43. & Stu. 332.

decree (c): and where a Court of Equity has as-proper parties are sumed the administration of a debtor's assets; and guilty of lackes; enjoined the creditors from proceeding at Law; it is most reasonable that any creditor, bound to abide by the suit in Equity, should be at liberty to prosecute it, when the proper parties for that purpose are guilty of delay (d). An application of this nature is usual; and, undoubtedly, the practice ought to be so; because one creditor may very likely be the friend of the party indebted, or his representatives, and inclined unjustly to favor the debtor's estate: for the purpose of prompting he will be allowdiligence, the Court will even go to the extent of allowing costs to the creditor making the application. And if such creditor, (having been sole and if he die, plaintiff (e),) die after a decree obtained in the plaintiff in a suit suit, as his representatives have an interest in its in which a decree has been obprosecution in respect of the costs already incur-tained, his reprered, no other creditor will be permitted to file a revive. supplemental bill, without notice to such representatives; who will be at liberty to revive, within a limited time (f). If neither the heir nor executor of a deceased debtor will institute a suit, to executor, will not make a debtmake real and personal property, to which he had or's claims availa claim, available for payment of his debts; a cre- of his debts, a ditor will, under such special circumstances, be take the necessaallowed to redeem a mortgage given by his debt-

If the heir, or able for payment creditor may ry proceedings:

or,

Mad. 392.

⁽c) Creuze v. Hunter, 2 Ves. Jun. 164; Powell v. Walworth, 2 Mad. 183.

⁽d) Edmunds v. Ackland,

⁵ Mad. 31; Fleming v. Prior,

⁵ Mad. 423.

⁽e) Burney v. Morgan, 1 Sim. & Stu. 361.

⁽f) Dixon v. Wyatt, 4

or, or to sue the parties accountable to his debtor's estate: the necessity of allowing this will be more evident. when the executor has become a bankrupt (g): or collusion can be brought home and, in some ca- to him (k). And under certain circumstances. also, (as when a co-obligor, or surety, discharges a demand, which was properly the debt of his principal), one defendant may obtain permission to prosecute a decree against another (i).

ses, one defendant may prosecute a decree against another:

or, if a suit has been instituted, ly carried on, a creditor may obsecute it.

debts, although liquidated by a report and decree, do not car-

ry interest.

The principle already stated, with respect to but is negligent. cases where a decree has been made, applies, with equal force, when a suit is only commenced by the tain leave to pro- next of kin, for the administration of a deceased debtor's estate; if there be sufficient proof, that reasonable diligence has not been exerted, any creditor may obtain permission to prosecute the suit: for if the mere institution of an amicable suit concluded all other claimants from proceeding, it is obvious, that the grossest fraud might be prac-Simple contract tised upon creditors (k). But, on the other hand, if it were understood to be of course, that, after liquidation of a simple contract debt, by a report and decree, the accumulated sum would carry interest; those who ought to be most active in prosecuting the decree would then become more negligent than the parties interested in the estate; and the consequence would be that, although any

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⁽g) Bourroughs v. Elton, 11 Ves. 36.

⁽h) Alsager v. Rowley, 6 Ves. 750; Benfield v. Solomons, 9 Ves. 86; Doran v. Simpson, 4 Ves. 665; Troughton v. Binkes, 6 Ves. 575;

Newland v. Champion, 1 Ves. Senr. 106.

⁽i) Walker v. Preswick, 2 Ves. Senr. 622.

⁽k) Sims v. Ridge, 3 Meriv. 463; Manaton v. Melewerth, 1 Eden, 24.

one creditor may, when he pleases, obtain an order to prosecute the decree, his motive for exertion would be at an end; he might think it most for his advantage to lie by; and the charge of interest might eat up the estate. To obviate this evil, the constant course of the Court of Chancery est; which is not is, that, debts carrying interest have interest com- delay of payputed, by the Master's report, down to actual pay- ment, ment; but simple contract debts, not carrying interest, have no interest computed by the report; nor is subsequent interest computed upon any other sums than those upon which the Master has computed interest up to the date of his report. For a plaintiff cannot, in a Court of Equity, pray unless the debt, interest for delay of payment, upon a decree; in its own nature, or by contract, where there has been no actual fraud, and the carried interest. debt does not by contract, or in its own nature, carry interest (1).

The rule as to

Interest upon the balance of a stated account may be recovered at common Law, in the shape of balance of a statdamages; but not as interest due by contract: and ed account is allowed; and such damages cannot be proved under a commis- when it cannot sion of bankrupt (m): or allowed in the distribution of an insolvent estate (n). But, in cases not affected by bankruptcy, special grounds may be shewn, making it equitable to give interest upon a stated account (o): thus, the balance of accounts

In what cases be claimed.

(I) Creuze v. Hunter, 2 Ves. Junr. ubi suprà; Anderson v. Dwyer, 1 Sch. & Lef. 804; Loundes v. Collens, 17 Ves. 29; Mellish v. Mellish, 14 Vet. 517: see post.

- (m) Ex parte Furneaux, 2 Cox, 219; Ex parte Koch, 1 Ves. & Bea. 345.
 - (n) Bellv. Free, 1 Swanst. 91.

stated

(o) Boddam v. Riley, 1 Br. 239.

stated between merchants will carry interest (p); for it is not only equitable as between the parties, but in furtherance of commercial policy that they should do so. Such settlement or acknowledgment by the debtor, raises, indeed, a contract to pay, which lays a sufficient ground for giving interest (q). And fraud may induce a Court to give, not merely interest, but compound interest, upon balances improperly retained, more especially by parties in confidential situations (r).

Where compound interest given.

Rules of proceeding to set aside, or surcharge and falsify, settled accounts.

Settled accounts are never set aside but for fraud; or allowed to be surcharged and falsified but for error; if error can be shewn, a Court of Equity will correct an account, as far as it is erroneous, whether the parties have so stipulated, or But, where it is sought to surcharge and falsify a settled account, the rule is fixed, upon the most obvious principle, that some specific error must be charged; as it would be impossible for the defendant to protect himself against a general allegation of error (s). An exception, however, to this general rule has been made, where, upon the face of the account, one party, holding a confidential situation with regard to the other, has admitted that he has not given such credit, and produced such a statement, as his employer was entitled to have. In that case, a general charge of error

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⁽p) Barwell v. Parker, 2 Ves. Senr. 365.

⁽q) Boddam v. Riley, 2 Br. 2; Brown v. Barkham, 1 P. Wms. 653.

⁽r) Tebbs v. Carpenter, 1 Mad. 300.

⁽s) Chambers v. Goldwin, 9 Ves. 266; Drew v. Power, 1 Sch. & Lef. 192; Palmer v. Mure, 2 Dick. 490.

was held sufficient (t). And where a fact is charged in a bill, which fact, in construction of Law, amounts to a fraud, in the legal sense of that term, it is not necessary that the plaintiff should apply that term to it in his bill (u).

The statute of limitation of personal actions (w), was framed with a view, not only to quiet men's rights, but, to suppress frauds in setting up stale demands, when the vouchers, or testimony, that such demands have been satisfied, may, probably, be lost. It is obvious, however, that this latter mischief can never arise; when, within the itime limited, there has been a declaration made, amount- but, a slight ining, by necessary implication, to an admission that ledgment that the debt is still due. Courts of Law seem, at least a debt remains due, takes the formerly, to have been astute in collecting this case out of the statute of limiimplication from slight circumstances; and though tations. this has been regretted (x), yet, the Judges who expressed that regret have felt themselves bound by a long train of decisions. There seems, however, to be no inclination in those Courts to go beyond actual precedents, in making constructions against the letter of the statute (y); which, Lord Eldon has intimated, are equally against its principle: though his Lordship added, the only safe course, upon an application of the kind under question, is to be silent (x).

Stale demands discountenanced;

⁽t) Matthews v. Wallwyn, 4 Ves. 125.

⁽u) Knatchbull v. Kissane, 5 Dow. 408.

⁽n) Stat. 21 Jac. 1, c. 16,

⁽x) Bryan v. Horseman, 4

East, 603; Hellings v. Shaw, 7 Taunt. 611.

⁽y) Beale v. Nind, 4 Barn. &

⁽z) Baillie v. Sibbald, 15 Ves. 192; Ex parte Develocy, 15 Ves. 492.

Courts of Equity will not allow a creditor, who comes in under a decree, sums which he could obtain at Law of damages.

It does not necessarily follow, that a creditor who comes in under a decree, will have his claims allowed to the extent which he might have recovered at common Law; the regular practice of only in the shape Courts of Equity is, not to allow to such a creditor any thing which would be given to him at Law in the shape of damages only: and though it has long been of course for a jury to give interest on a promissory note; yet, it was formerly held, that, a creditor could not, in the Court of Chancery, be allowed interest upon a debt so constituted (a). The Interest given latter branch of this doctrine, however, is now overruled; a promissory note, payable upon demand, or at a day certain, is considered as a written contract, upon which interest will run from the time when payment ought to be made. valid agreement to give promissory notes, will come within the same principle (b).

on a promissory note, payable on demand, or at a day certain.

No interest upon the balance of an open and mutual account;

unless retained fraudulently.

We have just seen instances, in which interest has been allowed, in Equity, upon the balance of a stated account; but upon the balance of an open and mutual account,—even though some of the items may arise upon specialties,-no interest can be given; for the balance is only a simple contract debt. To lay the foundation of any claim for interest, in such case, there must, at all events, be shewn an unjust detention of the debt, shewing fraud or breach of trust; or proof given that interest has been made of the balance (c). Where the

⁽a) Rigby v. Macnamara, 2 Cox, 240.

⁽b) Upton v. Lord Ferrers, 5 Ves. 803; Lowndes v. Collens, 17 Ves. 29.

⁽c) Barret v. Goodere, 1 Dick. 428; Earl of Bath v. Earl of Bradford, 2 Ves. Sen. 588.

the equity of the case requires it, interest may, by Interest may be given on furthe course of the Court, be given upon further di- ther directions: rections, although it was not reserved by the decree (d).

It is not the general rule to allow interest for the arrears of a jointure; the Court will require a special case for that; such as the being obliged, ture; a special case for that; in consequence of the non-payment, to borrow mo- shewn. ney: and then, according to Lord Hardwicke, interest will be given from a reasonable time (e). So, where there has been gross misconduct, by delay in the execution of an order, or decree, for pay-neglect of payment of money, the negligent party will be com- ment under a decree. pelled to pay interest: for no man must take upon himself, though with the tacit acquiescence of the other side, to dispense with an order of the Court (f). The allowance of interest upon arrears of annuities, and of dower, stands upon the upon arrears of same footing as before mentioned with respect to annuities, or dower; arrears of jointure: as a general rule, interest cannot be claimed in such cases (g); but, there are but may be alnumerous authorities, that, under special circum-lowed under particular circumstances, it may be given (h): for interest is a thing stances.

Not usualfy allowed upon arrears of a jointure; a special

Interest may be ordered for

Interest not, in

- (d) Goodere v. Lake, Amb. 584; Sammes v. Rickman, 2 Ves. Junr. 37; Champ v. Mood, 2 Ves. Senr. 470.
- (e) Bicknell v. Brereton, 2 Ves. Senr. 662; Stapleton v. Conway, 1 Ves. Sen. 428: but see, contra, the dictum of Lord Thurlow, in Ten v. Earl of Winterton, 1 Ves. Junr. 452.
- (f) Sammes v. Rickman, 2 Ves. Junr. 38; Bickham v. Cross, 4 Br. 319, in note. See ante, p. 60.
- (g) Bignal v. Brereton, 1
- (h) Morgan v. Morgan, 2 Dick. 644; The Drapers' Company v. Davis, 2 Atk. 211.

pretty much in the discretion of the Court (i); although that discretion is never exercised arbitrarily, but is regulated by the merits of each particular case (k).

Rule in Equity, as to interest upon arrears of a rent charge;

if given by way of maintenance, the claim to interest stronger.

a bond, regularly, the limit of the debt; but subject to equitable exceptions.

Whenever a rent-charge, or annuity, is secured by a clause of entry, or a bond with a penalty. which the grantor must undergo, if the grantee sued at common Law, and which would oblige him to come to a Court of Equity for relief; the Court will not aid him, except upon equal terms; which can be no other than payment of interest upon the arrears, for the time during which payment has been withheld (1): the Court, in Lord Hardwicke's opinion, should more especially insist on this condition, where the rent-charge, or annuity, has been The penalty of given by way of maintenance (m). And although, in general cases, the penalty of a bond is the utmost limit of a demand in respect thereof; yet, where the obligee has been restrained, by injunction, from proceeding at common Law, whilst the demand was under the penalty; there, the decree in Equity may be for payment of principal and interest beyond the penalty of the bond (n). a plaintiff, in such cases, must make up his mind

Atk. 579; Robinson v. Cumming, 2 Atk. 411.

to

⁽i) Litton v. Litton, 1 P. Wms. 543.

⁽k) Morris v. Dillingham, 2 Ves. Sen. 170.

⁽¹⁾ Countess of Ferrers v. Earl Ferrers, Ca. temp. Talb. 2.

⁽m) Newman v. Auling, 3

⁽n) Pulteney v. Warren, 6 Ves. 79, 86; O'Donnel v. Browne, 1 Ball & Beat. 263; Duvall v. Terry, Show. P. C. 16; Hale v. Thomas, 1 Vern. 349.

to have either all law, or do all equity (o). where a writ of error has been brought upon a judgment for a bond debt; and this appears to have been done merely for delay; interest may be allowed beyond the penalty (p). And as it is the regular course to allow a mortgagee interest upon mortgagee, when his costs, from the time they are ascertained by allowed. the Master's report; the same may also be done in favor of other parties, where justice requires it (q).

the costs of a

Where the legal remedy has been lost, by delivering up the instrument evidencing a claim, by ac-will open an account, although knowledging satisfaction upon a judgment, or satisfaction of all claims has been by a release or acquittance; and this was done in acknowledged. ignorance of a transaction which would have made it conscientious to hold the instrument, upon which the party could have prevailed at Law; or might properly have withheld any acquittance; Equity will give relief (r): and not hold an account so settled to be conclusive (s).

Where Equity will open an ac-

Though a decree for payment of a debt is equal to a judgment (t), that is only as to personal est to a judgment. tate (u); a decree does not directly affect land, until sequestration, or decree for sale (w). But after

a decree is equal

Rules as to the an possession of re-

- (o) Hugh Audley's case, Hardr. 136.
- (p) Clarke v. Seton, 6 Ves. 416.
- (q) Bickham v. Cross, 2 Ves. Senr. 471, and 4 Br. 320, note.
- (r) East India Company v. Donald, 9 Ves. 284.
- (s) East India Company V. Neave, 5 Ves. 185: See ante, p. 52, 53. 56.
- (t) Gray v. Chiswell, 9 Ves. 125; Perry v. Phelips, 10 Ves. 37; Goate v. Fryer, 2 Cox, 202.
- (u) Bligh v. Earl Darnley, 2 P. Wms. 621; Foley's case 2 Freem. 49; Mildred v. Robinson, 19 Ves. 588.
- (w) Martin v. Martin, 1 Ves. Senr. 214.

ceivers, or sequestrators.

an order for a receiver, or sequestration, possession under such order must not be disturbed, without permission of the Court first obtained. The course for a party to take, who is prejudiced by the sequestration, or by having a receiver put in his way, is, either to come in to be examined pro interesse suo; or to apply for leave to bring an ejectment (x). And, as an ejectment cannot be brought against a receiver, without leave of the Court; so, neither can he bring (y), or even defend (x) such action, without similar authority.

Proceedings against bodies corporate.

The difficulty arising from the number of parties will never be allowed to baffle the means, which a Court of Equity possesses, of doing effectual jus-If a number of persons think fit to apply for a charter, constituting them a body corporate, whether they do so without looking at the consequences, or otherwise, the right to sue, and the liability to be sued, as such Corporation, necessarily arises; nor will the Court fail to consider them with all the incidents attaching to that capacity: When the Corporation are trustees, they cannot refuse to be trusted as such, and to account to their cestuis que trust; with regard to the difficulty in such cases of carrying a decree into execution, it can only be said, that, the decree must be executed as in other cases of trust property. where complex and difficult inquiries would be ne-

⁽x) Angell v. Hadden, 9 Ves. 385, 387, 389; Brooks v. Greathead, 1 Jac. & Walk. 178; Kaye v. Cunningham, 5 Mad.

^{406;} Dunn v. Farrell, 1 Ball & Beat. 124.

⁽y) Wynn v. Lord Newborough, 3 Br. 88.

⁽z) Anonym. 6 Ves. 288.

cessary, if a fair and reasonable compensation of a plaintiff's claims should be offered by the Corporation, and such offer should be perversely refused, the Court would take that circumstance into due consideration in determining the question of costs (a).

The risk of loss of a deposit, paid to an auctioneer as part of the purchase money of property part payment sold by him, must be borne by the vendor who no- auction. minates him (b): the vendor, however, cannot take the deposit into his own hands; for, if the purchase goes off, the vendee may recover the deposit from the auctioneer (c), with interest. should delay in completing the sale be occasioned by any necessary investigation of the title, but the vendee has been let into possession, and is to be charged with an occupation rent; it is only reasonable, that, he should, on the other hand, be allowed interest upon his deposit (d): though, it seems, a vendor cannot claim interest upon the deposit, even when it has been locked up during the continuance of a suit, rendered necessary in consequence of the refusal of the vendee to complete the contract, on the ground of objections to the title, which, at the hearing, could not be supported (e).

Upon a bill filed by a legatee, or a cestui que trust, against an executor, or trustee; or by one ceiver granted, upon bill filed. partner against another; stating a case of gross fraud.

posits, made in

When a re-

(c) Maberly v. Robins, 5 Meriv. 694.

⁽a) Adley v. Whitstable Taunt. 626. Company, 1 Meriv. 109, 111. (d) Smith v. Jackson, 1 Mad. (b) Fenton v. Browne, 14 Ves. (e) Bridges v. Robinson, 3 150.

The Court does not willingly disturb the legal possession, by appointing a receiver upon affidavits; unless fraud be shewn.

fraud, or breach of trust; and verifying the charge by affidavit; a receiver may be obtained before answer; or the property might be lost (f). upon the bill of a purchaser, even pendente lite, if he can satisfactorily shew, that, although the legal title is under litigation, he has a clear equitable title; a receiver may, in this case also, be had, before answer (g). The Court of Chancery, however, as a general rule, does not willingly listen to a motion for a receiver of an estate, of which the defendant is in possession, under a legal title: cases of fraud, combined with danger to the property, may, certainly, arise, as to which a Court of Equity would interfere upon affidavits; but this will be done only in a case of fraud clearly proved, and of imminent danger, if the intermediate possession should not be taken under the care of the Court (h). where the plaintiff has a power of entry and distress, the appointment of a receiver would be a wanton expense (i).

Rules of proceeding in a suit on behalf of an ly with regard to the conduct of his next friend:

The Court of Chancery will change the next friend of an infant, who will not proceed in a cause, infant, particular- if the Court shall deem it a proper suit to go on But, a reference to a Master will not be with (k). directed, on the petition of an infant party, to inquire whether due expedition has been used in the

> (f) Middleton v. Dodswell, 13 Ves. 268; Jervis v. White, 6 Ves. 739; Van v. Barnett. 2 Br. 158.

- (g) Metcalfe v. Pulvertoft, 1 Ves. & Bea. 183.
- (h) Lloyd v. Passingham, 3 Meriv. 697; Pritchard v. Fleet-

wood, 1 Meriv. 55; Van v. Barnett, ubi supra; Duckworth v. Trafford, 18 Ves. 283.

- (i) Buxton v. Monkhouse, Coop. 42.
- (k) Ward v. Ward, 3 Meriv. 706.

the prosecution of a decree; for, if the Master should report that no one was to blame, there would be no party upon whom the expenses of the inquiry could be thrown. If any fact were shewn to the Court, proving misconduct, or negligence, on the part of the next friend of the infant, he might be removed; but, whilst he continues in that who will not be capacity, he is responsible, and a speculative inqui-removed on vague charges; ry into his conduct, without any express charge alleged against him, could not, for the reasons above assigned, be directed (l).

The next friend of an infant cannot withdraw and who cannot himself from that situation, and substitute an- withdraw at his own pleasure; other next friend to conduct a suit which he insti- on merely substituting another: tuted. There must at least be a reference to the Master, with a direction that he shall be at liberty to state any special circumstances. It may be that the suit was improperly commenced, or has been improperly conducted, and the next friend will not be allowed to escape thus from costs, to which he may have rendered himself liable (m). If the evidence of a plaintiff and next friend appear he must give seto be necessary on behalf of a co-plaintiff, the next incurred in his friend must give security for the costs incurred in time. his time, before his name will be allowed to be struck out, and another next friend substituted(n).

A strong case is necessary to obtain a reference, to ascertain whether a suit, instituted on behalf inquire whether a suit, actually

⁽¹⁾ Russel v. Sharpe, 1 Jac. (n) Witts v. Campbell, 12 & Walk. 482. Ves. 493.

⁽m) Melling v. Melling, 4 Mad. 261.

instituted on be- of an infant, is for his benefit: as it is essential for not readily granted:

but a reference to ascertain which of two advantageous, may be had:

To what exteut two concurrent suits may proceed against infants; though both suits have the same object.

half of an infant, is for his benefit; the protection of infants, that such suits should not be discouraged (o). And it is in no case competent for the next friend, who by commencing such a suit undertakes on his own part, that, the suit he has so commenced is for the benefit of the infant, to apply for a reference to determine that point (p). But where two suits on behalf of an infant have been instituted for the same purpose. such suits is most a reference is granted, on motion, as of course, to see which is most for the infant's benefit. party, however, on whose behalf such an application is made, should be a responsible person; as, if the order for reference should turn out to have been improperly obtained, it will be discharged with costs(q). And though two suits will not be allowed to go on, at the same time and for the same matters. in the name of an infant plaintiff; yet, other parties cannot be prevented from proceeding severally, at their own risk: but, until a decree in one suit is obtained, another, having the same object, may be carried on by a different plaintiff, notwithstanding infants are made defendants to both suits, and in respect of the very same interests (r).

Name of infant plaintiff struck out, without his

The name of an infant plaintiff may be struck out, on motion, in order that he may be made a giving security defendant (s); and he cannot be called upon, as an for costs incurred. adult plaintiff would (t), to give security for costs

incurred.

- (o) Stevens v. Stevens, 6 Mad. 98.
- (p) Jones v. Powell, 2 Mer.
- (q) Sullivan v. Sullivan, 2 Meriv. 43.
 - (r) Mortimer v. West, 1 Wils.
- Ch. Ca. 161; Anonym. 3 Atk.
- (s) Tappen v. Norman, 11 Ves. 563.
- (t) Lloyd v. Makeam, 6 Ves. 145.

incurred. And, it seems, an infant defendant who How infant's anis abroad may have a guardian appointed to put in his answer, also on motion (u); though the practice has, in one case, been said to require, that, a commission should go for that purpose (w).

When a suit on behalf of an infant has been instituted by a solicitor, who has named a prochein prochein any has been named amy without obtaining his permission; if, on a re- without his ference to the Master, the bill be dismissed, as not for the infant's benefit; the party who appears as prochein amy on the record will be ordered to pav The Court cannot in that stage of the bucosts. siness enter into the question between the solicitor and the prochein amy; the latter must make a direct application against the former, if he acted improperly (x).

Practice as to

When it was stated above, (in conformity to the authority there cited,) that, a party who commen- a suit on behalf of ces a suit on behalf of an infant, undertakes that it is an infant upon fair grounds, alfor the infant's benefit; it is not to be understood, lowed his costs, that, the party stands pledged for the success of terminate unthe suit: if there were reasonable grounds for bringing on the suit, and if it was carried on properly and without laches; though it may turn out unfortunately, the prochein amy will be entitled to his costs (y). The next friend of an infant will be allowed all his proper charges and expenses, incur-proches any; and trustee. ned in the prosecution of a suit on behalf of the

A next friend who commenced although the suit successfully.

Costs allowed a

⁽u) Jongsma v. Pfiel, 9 Ves. 857; Lushington v. Sewell, 6 Mad. 28.

⁽w) Tappen v. Norman, ubi

⁽x) Whittaker v. Marlar, 1 Cox, 286. See the head of "Solicitor and Client," p. 42.

⁽y) Taner v. Ivie, 2 Ves. Sen. . 468.

infant, under the head of just allowances: the same rule applies to a trustee who has expended money reasonably, in the fair execution of his trust (ϵ). The costs of an infant trustee, directed to convey under the statute of Anne, will be allowed (α).

But gross negligence, in omitting to ascertain plain facts, will subject a prochein amy to costs:

The same principle, which guides the Court in encouraging an honest prochein amy;—that is, the anxiety to have the affairs of infants properly taken care of; -will involve a dishonest one in the expenses of his own proceedings. Mere mistake or misapprehension will not be sufficient ground for charging a prochein amy with costs; if he can be supposed to have meant the infant's But when he has been guilty of gross benefit (b). negligence in not ascertaining a plain fact, the knowledge of which would have shewn the suit could not be sustained, he must pay costs(c). And where there has been any fraud in carrying on, or defending, the cause of an infant, he may either seek satisfaction in the shape of damages at Law against his guardian and next friend, or he may bring his bill in Equity to be relieved, on the ground of fraud (d); or great neglect (e).

and to make satisfaction for any further injury sustained by the infant.

A plaintiff may, on coming of age, abandon a suit commenced on his behalf whilst he was an infant; but he cannot compel the *prochein amy* to pay the costs, unless it be established that the bill

was

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On what terms a plaintiff, on coming of age, may dismiss a bill filed on his behalf when an infant.

- (z) Fearns v. Young, 10 Ves. 184.
- (a) Ex parte Cant, 10 Ves. 554.
- (b) Whittaker v. Marlar, ubi supra
- (c) Pearce v. Pearce, 9 Ves. 549.
- (d) Richmond v. Taylour, 1 Dick. 38.
- (e) Kemp v. Squire, 1 Ves. Sen. 205.

was improperly filed. If this cannot be shewn, the suit will only be dismissed upon condition, that, the (late infant) plaintiff shall give an undertaking to pay the costs both of the defendant, and of the next friend (f). An infant is bound by *laches* in a suit (\dot{g}) , though, as we have seen, he may have a remedy over against his negligent by a suit. prochein amy: and if, after a decree made in a suit brought on behalf of an infant, the next friend die; the defendant, in that stage, has a right to a suit abates the death of a move in prosecution of the cause; and, on his ap-prochein amy. plication, a reference to a Master will be directed. for the purpose of having a new next friend appointed (h). So, if the prochein amy of a married woman die, another must be nominated, or the bill will be dismissed with costs (i).

When a defendant has destroyed the subject of suit, and absconded, Lord Thurlow thought it rea- under which a plaintiff may dissonable that, the plaintiff should be at liberty to miss his bill, without costs. dismiss his bill, without costs; unless the defendant found security for any costs which might be given against him, if the cause proceeded (k). But Unless when this reasoning is not applicable to a case in which those circumstant stances arise out the suit becomes futile as to the plaintiff, in conse- of the defendant's bankruptcy. quence of the defendant's bankruptcy: the plaintiff must either dismiss his bill with costs, in order to go in under the commission; or proceed.

Infant bound by laches in a

Practice when a suit abates by

with

⁽f) Anonym. 4 Mad. 461.

⁽g) Lord Sherbrook, v. Lord

Hinchinbrook, 13 Ves. 396.

⁽h) Bracey v. Sandiford, 3 Mad. 468.

⁽i) Barlee v. Barlee, 1 Sim.

[&]amp; Stu. 100.

⁽k) Knox v. Brown, 2 Br.

^{186;} S. C. 1 Cox's Ca. 359.

the plaintiff be-

Course where with the suit, making the assignees parties (l). On comes bankrupt. the bankruptcy of a plaintiff, he must either procure his assignees to be made parties, within a limited time, or his bill will be dismissed; but, it seems, without costs (m).

As a general • rule, plaintiff cannot dismiss his bill without costs:

in what cases he may do this on payment of costs.

Where one coplaintiff may withdraw.

Course of proceeding where the bill abates by co-plaintiff.

A plaintiff who has dragged defendants into Court, can in no case, except that above mentioned, dismiss his bill without costs: to dismiss it with costs is a motion of course, before a decree (n), but not after (o); unless the decree merely directed inquiries; in which case the parties may, by consent, obtain the same order by motion, as could be made upon further directions (n). consent of the defendant, one co-plaintiff may, in ordinary cases, dismiss the bill, as far as he is concerned, with costs(q): but co-plaintiffs cannot be permitted to withdraw themselves from that character, if, by so doing, the remaining plaintiffs would be injured (r). It must not be understood, however, that, when a suit, brought by two tenants the death of one in common of property of any kind, has, by the death of one plaintiff, abated; his representatives can bind the surviving co-plaintiff to go on, by filing a bill of revivor, without his consent: for

- (I) Monteith v. Taylor, 9 Ves. 616.
- (m): Wheeler v. Malins, 4 Mad. 171; Randall v. Mumford, 18 Ves. 428: but the practice in the Court of Exchequer is different; see 2 Fowl. Ex. Pr. 30.
- (n) Dixon v. Parks, 1 Ves. Junr. 402; Anonym. ibid. 141.
- (o) Carrington v. Holly, 1 Dick. 281; Lashley v. Hogg, 11 Ves. 602.

circum-

- (p) Anonym. 11 Ves. 169.
- (q) Langdale v. Langdale, 13 Ves. 167.
- (r) Holkirk v. Holkirk, 4 Mad. 50. See the head of "Solicitor and Client," p. 43.

circumstances may have come to light convincing such survivor that it would be gross injustice for him to pursue the suit. Still, if the representatives of the deceased plaintiff choose to revive (as they may perhaps properly do), it will be necessary for them to bring the surviving plaintiff before. the Court in some way; and, if he will not consent to become a co-plaintiff, he must be made a defendant to the bill of revivor (s).

When a plaintiff has suffered three terms to elapse, after answer put in, without a replication, it for want of proseis a motion of course, requiring no notice, that cution; the bill be dismissed (t): but, it rather seems, that, after a replication filed, as the defendant may rejoin gratis, and thereby put the cause at issue, he cannot move to dismiss the bill for want of prose- not when the cution, for, he may then proceed himself (*): if the stage that the deplaintiff refuse to join in a commission for the ex- fendant may proceed himself: amination of witnesses, the defendant may have a commission ex parte (w): and, the next term after the course to be publication passed, if the plaintiff neglect to set case: down the cause for hearing, it may be set down ad requisitionem defendentis (x). When this is necessary to done, the plaintiff should be regularly served with tiff with a suba subpana to hear judgment: for, notwithstanding judgment. his solicitor undertake to appear, without having a subpoena, yet, if the plaintiff do not appear, the bill

When a bill may be dismissed

cannot

⁽s) Fallowes v. Williamson, 11 Ves. 310, 313.

^{.(}t) Naylor v. Taylor, 16 Ves. 127; Jackson v. Purnell, ibid. 205; Day v. Snee, 3 Ves. & Bea. 171.

⁽u) Compare Tozer v. Tozer, 1 Cox, 288, with Skip v. Warner, 3 Atk. 558; and Squirrel v. Squirrel, 3 Swan. 250, note.

⁽w) Toth. Proceed. 16.

⁽x) Skip v. Warner, 3 Atk. 558.

cannot be dismissed, and the cause can only be struck out of the paper: though, on a proper application, the solicitor for the plaintiff will be made to pay the costs occasioned by his default of appearance (y). But, when one of two, or more, codefendants sets down a cause for hearing, it is only necessary for him to serve the plaintiff with a subpæna to hear judgment. It is proper that the other defendants should be also served with similar notice, but that is the duty of the plaintiff(x).

When a decree will be prefaced with a direction for payment of costs of motions made in the CRUSE.

missal may be discharged on terms.

Defendant may move that the plaintiff be ordered to amend within a fixed time:

or to complete process of revi-

Where a decree is made for the dismissal of a bill with costs: if motions have been made in the cause. the cost of which cannot be obtained, unless the decree is prefaced with a direction for the pay-Order of dis. ment thereof, it will be so ordered (a). order for dismissal may be discharged, upon terms, where the delay is accounted for, by affidavit (b). When a cause has been allowed to stand over, with liberty to amend the bill, if the plaintiff do not amend within a reasonable time; the defendant may move that a limited time may be fixed for making the amendments, and he will be entitled to the costs of such motion, (if costs are mentioned in his notice), as it was the plaintiff's default which rendered the motion necessary (c). So, if, after a decree, the plaintiff file a bill of revivor, to which the defendant puts in an answer, but the plaintiff delavs

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⁽y) Ellis v. King, 5 Mad.

⁽z) Clarke v. Dunn, 5 Mad.

⁽a) Wild v. Hobson, 4 Mad. 49.

⁽b) Bellingham v. Brutty, 1 Mad. 265.

⁽c) Cox v. Allingham, 3 Mad. 393; Benedict v. Thackeray, 5 Price, 592; Milward v. Oldfield, 4 Price, 326.

delays to obtain an order for revivor; on the application of the defendant, it will be ordered, that, the plaintiff shall, within a limited time, revive the suit; or, in default thereof, that, the defendant shall be at liberty to draw up the order to revive (d). Where an order dismissing a bill for want of prosecution has been obtained, but no in detaying to draw up an order proceeding for the purpose of drawing up that or- for dismissal. der is had for a year; and after that delay an application is made for leave to draw up the order nunc pro tune, which is granted; but still the party delays to serve that order: if, as soon as the order is effectually served, the Court be applied to, to reinstate the cause, the order for dismissal will be discharged; provided that would have been proper had the application been earlier; for whatever laches may have occurred, is principally to be attributed to the other party (e).

Effect of lackes in delaying to

As an application to dismiss a bill for want of Defendant canprosecution is proper only when a defendant has not move to dismiss a bill to no means of taking any step in the cause, such a which he has filed a general demotion will not succeed where the defendant has murrer; filed a general demurrer; for he might himself set down the demurrer for argument (f). The same rule, resting on the same ground, holds where a plea or plea. has been put in (g). A possible case may arise, in which, as the reason of the rule alluded to will not the rule that, after issue joined a apply, the rule itself will not be called into opera-defendant cannot

Exception to move to dismiss tion: a bill for want of prosecution.

⁽d) Gordon v. Bertram, 1 Cox, 377; Done v. Allen, 1 Meriv. 154. Dick. 55.

^{· (}e) Browne v. Byne, 1 Ves. (g) Anonym. Barnard. Ch. & Bea. 312. Ca. 280.

⁽f) Simpson v. Densham, 2

tion: thus, if, after issue joined, the plaintiff be indulged with permission to amend his bill, this is a step which he alone can take; and, if he neglect it, the defendant may obtain an order that he shall amend within a reasonable time, or that the suit shall stand dismissed (h).

It should be observed, that, it has been held, a bill will not be dismissed where it appears that a replication was filed on the very day the motion for dismissal was made (i): and, in the same case, it was thought immaterial whether the replication was filed before, or after, the motion for dismissal. But, with respect to this last position, at least, the practice is now settled to the contrary: the order ates from the mo- of dismission operates from the time it is pro-If this were not the force and effect of nounced. such an order, it would be altogether nugatory; and the plaintiff might, the next moment, take a step, by filing a replication, which would prevent in the Exchequer its operation (k). And though, it seems, the practice of the Court of Exchequer admits this evasion of its orders; yet, where a plaintiff files a replication merely to keep his bill in Court, after an orcan only be with- der for its dismissal, he will not be permitted, as of course, to withdraw such replication, and amend his bill: to obtain this indulgence, an affidavit of the materiality of the proposed amendment is, at any rate, necessary (l). In

An order for dismissal operment it is pronounced, in the Court of Chancery:

it may be evad-ed, by filing a replication immediately afterwards: but a replication so filed drawn by permission, and on special grounds;

> (h) Pratt v. Holebrook, 5 Mad. 31. See supra, p. 80.

(k) Lorimer v. Lorimer, 1 Jac. & Walk. 289.

(1) Philipps v. Saunderson, 9 Price, 206; Turner v. Calvert, \$ Price, 163.

⁽i) Reynolds v. Nelson, 5 Mad. 61.

In ordinary cases, it is a motion of course to though in ordiwithdraw a replication and amend a bill, unless is a motion of some further proceeding has been had in the cause, course; if no proceedings have or the plaintiff has undertaken to speed it. where any steps whatever have been taken sub- the replication. sequently to filing the replication,—as, for instance, giving rules to produce witnesses,—there, a motion to withdraw the replication, and the rules to produce witnesses, and for leave to amend, is a motion which both requires notice, and, also, a And if, after long delay, the special case (m). plaintiffs, by their proposed amendments, offer an allowed, after entirely different case, upon grounds which, make an entirely new case, by (though some of them may come under the de-amendments inscription of new matter,) were, many of them, which they within their knowledge at the time the suit was brought forward commenced; or which, with due diligence, they at first. might then have discovered; leave to introduce, by way of amendment, such facts, constituting substantially a new suit, will be refused, unless the defendants consent to wave the objection; and if the plaintiffs will proceed on such new statement, they must commence de novo (n).

But been had subsequently to filing

> Plaintiffs not might have

Where parties have once submitted their rights A private agreeto the jurisdiction of Equity, a private agreement ties, out of Court, between themselves, out of Court, will not operate will not operate as a dismissal of as a dismissal of the bill, and a stay of proceedings a bill. in the suit. Some step must be taken in Court, ei-

ther

⁽m) Lord Kilcourcy v. Ley, Christchurch v. Simonde, 2 4 Mad. 212; Myers v. ----, Meriv. 470; Sharp v. Ashton, ibid. 268. 3 Ves. & Bea. 148; Vipan v.

⁽n) Dean and Chapter of Mertlock, 2 Meriv. 479.

ry not dismissed secution:

tuate testimony

Quære, whether the banktiff abates a suit?

theoretical principle, in this case,

ther by motion to dismiss the bill, or to stay pro-Bills of discove- ceedings (o). A bill brought for discovery, merely, for want of pro- cannot be dismissed for want of prosecution; but the defendant may move for his costs (p). as bills to perpe-bill to perpetuate testimony may be dismissed , for want of prosecution (q).

Whether the bankruptcy of the plaintiff abates a ther the bank-ruptcy of a plain- suit (r); or whether the bankruptcy of the defendant alone has this effect (s); is a question which has been much agitated: by the Court of Exchequer it has been, more than once, decided, that, bankruptcy causes no abatement (t); whilst the leaning of the Court of Chancery has been to the other side of the question: in principle, the suit is abated, for the plaintiff has lost his capacity to sue. And as, where a bankrupt's bill is dismissed for want of prosecution, he cannot be compelled to pay costs; the necessity of a motion to get rid of the suit is a hardship on the defendant (u). But, whilst it is unsettled what may be deemed the effect of bankruptcy as to abating the suit, as all the bankrupt's rights are transferred to his assignees, it is proper, that, they should be served with notice of any motion which may be made for dismissing such suit; in order to give them an opportunity to file a supplemental bill within such time as the

- (o) Rowe v. Wood, 1 Jac. & Walk. 345.
- (p) Woodcock v. King, 1 Atk. 286.
 - (q) Anonym. Ambl. 237.
- (r) Randall v. Mumford, 18 Ves. 426.
 - (s) Russell v. Sharpe, 1 Ves.
- & Bea. 500; Rhode v. Spear, 4 Mad. 51.
- (t) Taitt v. Carwick, and Bramhall v. Cross, cited, 2 Fowl. Ex. Pr. 30.
- (u) Wheeler v. Malines, 4 Mad. 171.

the Court shall limit for that purpose (w). mode of continuing the suit by supplemental bill, instead of revivor, certainly seems as if bankruptcy were not considered, in the practice even of seems at variance the Lord Chancellor, when sitting in bankruptcy, as an abatement, whatever the theory of the Court of Chancery may be. If it were deemed strictly an abatement, moreover, an order to dismiss for want of prosecution, would (in this, as in every other case of abatement) be irregular; though it does not follow, that, such order would, therefore, be a nullity; an order, like a judgment, must stand, until it is judicially discharged (x).

with practice.

A plaintiff who has released the principal actor in a fraud, cannot go on against the other parties, in a fraud be rewho would have been liable only in a secondary secondarily liable degree (y). Where a plaintiff brings a bill with a perfect knowledge that he has no right, his bill follow the diswill be dismissed with costs(z): but where a plain-depends on the tiff may have had sufficient reason for filing a bill, each case. though on the coming in of the answer a good defence appears, the plaintiff may, in some cases, not be made to pay costs; unless he go on after the answer is put in (a). But, though it would occasionally be hard, if costs were always to follow the event of a a fair case is cause; yet, Lord Eldon has declared his conviction. for consideration: arising from experience, that, upon the whole, such

If the principal are discharged.

Whether costs missal of a bill,

No costs where brought forward

a course

⁽w) Porter ∇ . Cox, Buck, 470.

⁽x) Boddy v. Kent, 1 Meriv.

⁽y) Thompson v. Harrison, 2 Br. 164; S. C. 1 Cox's Ca. 346.

⁽z) Stockdale v. South Sea Company, Barnard. Ch. Ca.

⁽a) Hodgson v. Dand, 3 Br. 475.

but vexatious resistance of demands, or groundless applications, visited with costs.

a course would be most desirable. That, however, is not the present rule: where a fair case for consideration has been brought forward, it is not the practice of the Court of Chancery to visit the party who fails with costs(b). Where, however, there has been any thing vexatious in resisting a demand, costs will be given to the party whose claims have been so delayed (c). And where a special application is made, essentially of the nature of a rehearing, costs follow the judgment, if that be given unfavourably to the application (d).

In what cases a suit in Equity may be maintained, although the same matter has been previously litigated in another Court.

There are cases in which a Court of Equity will stay proceedings in a suit, which is brought for the very same (e) matter as another suit, in another Court of Equity; until the costs of the proceedings elsewhere have been paid, or security given for such payment. But, the same principle does not apply where one suit is in Equity and the other at Law, or in the Ecclesiastical Court. For, admitting the trial to be of the same matter in each Court, it is not in the same mode; that the question has been tried at Law, may, in many cases, be no reason why the plaintiff should not apply to the defendant's conscience; or why, supposing the defendant to admit the truth of the bill, the plaintiff should not be relieved: the principle, therefore, as applied to two suits in Equity, or to one in Equity and one at Law, is perfectly different (f). And where a person who in a former proceeding sued

⁽b) Staines v. Morris, 1 Ves. & Bea. 16.

⁽c) Worgan v. Ryder, 1 Ves. & Bea. 21.

⁽d) Willan v. Willan, 16 Ves. 218.

⁽c) See post, p. 90, 91, 92. (f) Wild v. Hobson, 2 Ves. & Bea. 109, 111.

sued in forma pauperie, has instituted a second suit for the same purpose, not being dispaupered in the former; there is no instance of staying the second proceeding until he has paid the costs (to be fixed by taxation,) of the first suit; unless the new proceeding was to be justly characterized as very vexatious. In such cases, that has been done. A pauper who files an improper bill is liable to be committed; his poverty will not shield him from the consequences of vexatious fraud (g). Any agreement for contribution towards the expense of litigating a question, in which the con- to expense of tributors have not a common interest; if the proceeding might be impeached as maintenance, is what the Law will not endure: but such agreements, though not favored, will not be harshly judged of (k).

Suits in forms pauperis.

and contribution

Where a plaintiff in Equity is also proceeding at Law, and it is clear that the object of both pro- what Court he ceedings is the same; the defendant, on putting injoined in the in his answer, may move for an order, that the plaintiff may elect whether he will go on at common Law or in Equity; and, at the same time, may, in general cases, obtain an injunction, until such electionshall be made: and after a decree for an account, may have a peremptory injunction to stop all proceedings at Law (i). The last observation must be understood with this qualification; when Law, against an

Plaintiff compelled to elect in will proceed; and meantime.

In what stage of proceedings at

⁽g) Pearson v. Belcher, 4 Ves. 630; Whitelocke v. Baker, 13 Ves. 511.

⁽h) S. C. 112; Corbet v. Corbet, 16 Ves. 411, 412.

⁽i) Hogue v. Curtis, 1 Jac. & Walk. 450; Mocher v. Reed, 1 Ba. & Bea. 320; Wilson v.

Wetherhead, 2 Meriv. 406.

executor, the plaintiff will not be injoined, though a suit for administration of going on.

the plaintiff at Law has actually obtained judgment de bonis propriis against an executor; then, to delay the creditor by injunction, until it is the assets may be ascertained, by the account taken in the suit in Equity, whether there are assets of the testator to answer the demand, might be to deprive the plaintiff at Law of the fair benefit of his judgment; the account might not be taken till after all chance of recovering against the executor de bonis propriis was entirely gone (k). But where, after a decree for administration of assets, the executor has, merely with a view to gain time to apply for an injunction, put in such a plea to an action, brought by a creditor of his testator, as might possibly entitle such creditor to judgment de bonis propriis. the injunction will be granted (1). For, the mere form of the plea to the action, adopted, inadvertently or otherwise, cannot in fairness make the executor responsible de bonis propriis; he will, therefore, be protected; and the creditor will not be allowed to proceed to such judgment, but must come in under the decree, which is in the nature of a judgment for all the creditors (m).

After an order to elect, a plaintiff may obtain at Law, to a certain point.

Particular circumstances may induce the Court, even after an order for election, to give the plainleave to proceed tiff liberty to proceed at common Law, so far as those circumstances may require: there is no case

in

⁽k) Terrewest v. Featherby, 2 Meriv. 481; Brook v. Skinner, ibid. in note.

⁽¹⁾ Fielden v. Fielden, 1 Sim. & Stu. 256; Dyer v. Kearsley, 2 Meriv. 482. See, how-

ever, Stephenson v. Wilson, 2 Vern. 325.

⁽m) Paxton v. Douglas, 8 Ves. 520; Perry v. Phelips, 10 Ves. 40.

in which a Court of Equity would not modify the rule, in order to do substantial justice (n). there is no rule of practice, in such Courts, which modified, so as will not yield to special circumstances (o): and to come at justice. they will never allow themselves to be so bound by forms, but that they will, if possible, chalk out a way to come at justice (p). Though settled practice will never be altered capriciously (q); and the Court can only dispense with rules laid down by itself; where an act of Parliament has directed a certain form of proceeding; the Court has no jurisdiction except in the mode prescribed(r).

For, for all rules of

A party is certainly entitled to a full answer before he can be compelled to elect; and a plea can-answer, beforehe not, for this purpose, be considered as an an- tion. swer (s): but if no exceptions are taken to the answer, within eight days after it is put in, it is to answers. be assumed, that, the plaintiff is satisfied with the answer: the defendant may then move that the plaintiff may be put to his election; and the plaintiff cannot afterwards suspend the order for election, by moving, as of course, for leave to file exceptions, after the eight days, nunc pro tunc. such case he should make a special application to suspend the order for an election (t). Though,

A plaintiff is entitled to a full is put to his elec-

Rules as to taking exceptions to

- . (n) Carwick v. Young, 2 Swanst. 248.
- (o) Butler v. Bulkeley, 2 Swanst. 374; Princess of Wales v. Earl of Liverpool, 1 Swanst.
- (p) Wharam v. Broughton, 1 Ves. Sen. 186.
- (q) Bowden v. Hodge, 2 Swanst. 263.

generally

- (r) Baynes v. Baynes, 9 Ves. 462; Evelyn v. Forster, 8 Ves. 97.
 - (s) Fisher v. Mee, 8 Mer. 48.
- (t) Coupland v. Braddock, 5 Mad. 16.

generally speaking, it is a motion of course to file exceptions to an answer, at any time within two terms and the following vacation; and if the answer has been referred for impertinence, it will be only from the date of the Master's report on this head, that the time for filing exceptions on the ground of insufficiency will run, or an injunction be dissolved; for, till the impertinence is expunged. it cannot be known what constitutes the answer (u).

If a plaintiff, before filing a commenced a suit in the Exchequer, for the same purpose;

proceedings in the Exchequer will be stayed, if the plaintiff attempt to resume them, after a decree in the cause has been made by the Court of

Chancery.

Though, we have seen, a Court of Equity will not, as a general rule, permit a plaintiff to proceed both by suit and by action, at the same time, for the same matters; yet, whether the Court of bill in Chancery, Chancery will restrain a party in a cause submitted to its jurisdiction, from prosecuting a suit, for the very same purpose, in the Court of Exchequer; is a point which Lord Eldon thought might require consideration (w): In the case then before his Lordship there was this peculiarity; the bill in the Exchequer was first filed by a legatee; though a decree was first obtained, in the Court of Chancery, for the administration of the testator's estate; and the ultimate decision of the Lord Chancellor was, that, all proceedings in the suit commenced in the Exchequer should be stayed; but that the parties to that suit should be at liberty to go in under the decree in the Court of Chancery; and should also receive their costs of the Exchequer

⁽u) Dyer v. Dyer, 1 Meriv. 14 Ves. 536. 2; Fisher v. Bayley, 12 Ves. (w) Jackson v. Leaf, 1 Jac. 20; Goodinge v. Woodhams, & Walk. 232.

Exchequer suit, up to the time of their having notice of the decree (x). His Lordship thus resolved his own doubt, by deciding, that, the Court of Chancery, at least after a decree made in a cause submitted to it. (of which the parties to a suit in the Exchequer may partake the benefit), will injoin proceedings in the Exchequer, notwithstanding the bill in that Court may have been first filed. And Lord Clarendon, more than a century and a half previously, had injoined proceedings in a the Exchequer and a half previously, had injoined proceedings in a cross-suit in the Exchequer, where the original suit original suit was commenced in had been commenced in the Court of Chance-Chancery; rv(u); upon this ground, that, it was not to be permitted that, when a bill is filed in Chancery, the plaintiff should be delayed there by a defend. . ant's artifice in putting in an insufficient answer, whilst a bill in the Exchequer, in the nature of a cross-suit, was posted on: thus ousting the jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery. The converse and e converse. of the argument, it should seem, would equally hold, if a similar evasion were practised with regard to the Court of Exchequer. But, where no But, concurrent fraud appears, concurrent suits relating to the suits (even crosssame subject, in different Courts of Equity, are the same matter, in different not incapable of justification; so at least Lord Courts of Equity, have been sup-Keeper Coventry thought; who observed, that, ported. there are frequent precedents where a defendant in a Court of Equity hath been admitted to a cross-suit in another Court of Equity, without waiting

the Exchequer

Curre v. Bowyer, 3 Mad. 456. (x) S. C. ibid. p. 233; and, (y) Roberts v. Wilks, 2 Freem. as to the question of costs, see Paxton v. Douglas, 8 Ves. 521; Goate v. Fryer, 2 Cox, 202:

by one creditor, cannot prevent another from doing the same thing.

waiting the event of the first suit: for if the plaintiff in that suit surcease, or be dismissed, the other party may have no help to right but by his cross-suit (x). And Lord Keeper North The filing a bill held the same opinion (a). Mr. Baron Clerk, also, declared, that, it never could possibly be a general rule, that one bill only should be depending, where a number of creditors are concerned (b). The same doctrine has been since laid down by still higher authority (c). And, clearly, both by the opinions of Lord Commissioner Eyre (d), and of Lord Chancellor Northington (e), where the suit first instituted, whether in the same or a different Court of Equity, would not, fully and completely, have the same effect, in all respects, as the second When proceed. suit, both may go on at the same time. The Court of Chancery will restrain proceedings in the Spiritual Courts, in cases where those Courts cannot do complete justice (f).

tual Court injoined.

Sequestration for default of answer, or other contempt:

A sequestration may be awarded against a defendant who obstinately refuses, or neglects, to put in an answer to a bill; or an examination to interrogatories; or who is guilty of a contempt in not producing papers, &c. according to order (g).

A for-

- (z) Cheke's case, 2 Freem. 162; the case of Verdall v. Harvey, ibid. is distinguishable; that having been merely a question of personal privilege.
- (a) Newburgh v. Wren, 1 Vern. 220.
 - (b) Anonym. 3 Atk. 603.
- (c) Good v. Blewitt, Coop. 198; Mortimer v. West, 1 Wils. Ch. Ca. 161.

- (d) Law v. Rigby, 4 Br. 63.
- (e) Coysgarne v. Jones, Ambl. 613.
- (f) Backhouse v. Hunter, 1 Cox, 342.
- (g) Lupton v. Hescott, 1 Sim. & Stu. 274. See the course of proceeding laid down in Holme v. Cardwell, 3 Mad. 115.

A fortiori, a sequestration may issue for non-pay- a fortiori for nonment of money into Court: the process will, if ney: necessary in such case, be rendered effectual, by directing any individual in possession of money claimed by the party against whom the sequestration issued, to pay it into Court (h). And the the process caneffect of a sequestration will never be suffered a fraudulent to be defeated by a voluntary conveyance made transfer of the property. pendente lite (i): though it may be overreached by the execution of a power of revocation, and a limitation of new uses (k); or a sale for valuable consideration to a boná fide purchaser (l).

not be evaded by

To enable sequestrators of real estate, under a sequestration for non-payment of money, to let tween the effect of sequestration the same, notice of motion to that effect must be on meme process, or under a decregiven (m); and where the sequestration is on mesne tal order. process, the sequestrators will not be ordered to make leases (n): but sequestrators under a decretal order have the same power to sell as on a final decree (o).

The course of proceeding in the Court of Chancery, of necessity and from the very constitution ingo in Equity of that Court, is not rapid: but there is no dispo-discountenanced by the Court.

Unnecessary delay in proceed-

sition

- (h) Francklyn v. Colhoun, 3 Swanst. 310; Lady Pelham v. Duchess of Newcastle, 3Swanst. 290, in note.
- (i) Colston v. Gardner, 2 Cha. Ca. 46; Langley v. Bregdon, cited, ibid.
- (k) Witham v. Bland, Rep. temp. Finch, 127.
- (1) Colston v. Gardner, ubi supra; Hamblyn v. Lee. 3

- Swanst. 301, note; but see Bird v. Littlehales, 3 Swanst. 299, note.
- (m) Neale v. Bealing, 3 Swan. 304, note.
- ----, 3 Swanst. (n) Ray ∇ . — 306, note.
- (o) Cadell v. Smith, 3 Swan. 308, note; S. C. (though differently entitled, as to the plaintiff's name,) 3 Br. 362.

ders for time granted as of cause it would lay to examine, in ther the indulgence was, in that instance, proper.

A defendant for want of an ana special case to file a plea, or detisfy the Court, they are not merely dilatories.

sition in the Judges presiding there, to extend the means of delay beyond those limits of indulgence which substantial Equity, as well as long custom, The usual or has sanctioned. Thus, although a defendant may obtain, as of course, orders for further time to decourse, only be- mur, plead, or answer, (not demurring alone), after create greater de the regular period for answering is expired; this cach case, whe is allowed in consideration of the utter impossibility, existing in many cases, that, the defendant should be able to put in a full defence within the regular time for answering: and to examine, in every case, whether the indulgence was, or was not, proper in that particular case, would occupy too much time, and, instead of expediting, would incalculably retard the general business of the Court, and the progress of its suitors. once in contempt when, for want of an answer, an attachment swer, must shew with proclamations has been returned against obtain leave to a defendant, he cannot, merely by clearing his murrer; and sa- contempt, put himself into a condition to move. as of course, for a commission to take a demurrer. or plea, on his part.(p): nor, although a plea is, for most purposes, considered as an answer (q), can he, under such circumstances, file a plea, without special permission (r): Still less would it be allowable for him to put in a demurrer (s); for, either of these modes of defence, will, in such cases, be justly open to a suspicion of being resorted

⁽p) De Minckuitz v. Udney, 16 Ves. 356.

⁽q) See an exception, in Fisher v. Mee, 3 Meriv. 48, before cited.

⁽r) Broughton v. Jones, 3 Mad. 43; Lloyd v. Gunter, 1 Vern. 274.

⁽s) Sanders v. Murney, 1 Sim. & Stu. 227.

sorted to rather for the purpose of obtaining further delay, than of fairly encountering the plaintiff's demands. And as there is little disposition in the Courts of Equity to countenance defences which tend to prevent the progress of suits to a hearing in the ordinary way (t); a defendant, who desires to employ such defences, should at least take care to divest them of the appearance of being merely dilatories, and offer them without laches.

On the other hand, a plaintiff will not be allowed to press on his cause to hearing, when it is sa-ther inquiry. tisfactorily established, that, the defendant has occasioned no improper delay; and that further inquiry into facts is likely to promote the ends of justice. Thus, although publication of evidence publication of has been repeatedly enlarged before; yet, upon evidence may be repeatedly enproper affidavits, it may be again enlarged, in or- larged. der that the most complete evidence may be obtained, so as finally to set the question in dispute at rest (u). It is a motion of course to enlarge publication where no witnesses have been examin-larging publication. ed (x): and when by accident or surprise publication passes before the defendant has examined his witnesses, if he has been guilty of no culpable negligence, the Court will allow his witnesses to be examined, upon an affidavit that the depositions of the plaintiff's witnesses have not be seen. But when the defendant has wilfully neglected to examine

But where justice requires fur-

Rules as to en-

⁽t) Mitford, 181.

⁽z) French v. Newsey, 6 Mad.

⁽u) Barnes v. Abram, 3 Mad. 52. 109.

If, after publication, further inry, an investigation by a jury may be directed;

examine his witnesses, till after the time to which publication has been enlarged, his irregularity will deprive him of any title to further indulgence (v). All the rules of the Court of Chancery as to pubquiry be necessa- lication, chiefly regard the importance of having the whole evidence taken in secret; so as to preclude any examination merely intended to support defective evidence previously given. The Court. however, where it observes that farther inquiry is necessary, never refuses to grant it; either by a reference back to the Master, or before a jury (x). The interrogatories for this purpose (when the to settle interro- question is not sent to a trial at Law) must be settled by the Master, who will take care that the same witness is not a second time examined to the same facts, after having seen where the cause pinched, and how his testimony bore upon it (a).

or the Master may be ordered gatories.

Mode of clearing contempt for in an answer:

Where process of contempt has issued for want default of putting of an answer; when an answer is put in, the defendant is entitled to be discharged from custody on paying the costs, or, on tender and refusal (b). But, in the latter case, an order must be obtained; which is made as of course, upon the Six Clerk's certificate (c): for it would be improper to deprive the defendant of his liberty, upon an allegation of the insufficiency of the answer put in, before

⁽y) Coulthard v. Halstead, 3 Mad. 429.

⁽z) Walker v. Wingfield, 18 Ves. 443.

⁽a) Vaughan v. Lloyd, 1 Cox, 313; Smith v. Graham, 2 Swan.

^{265;} Willan v. Willan, 19 Ves. 592.

⁽b) Boehm v. De Tastet, 1 Ves. & Bea. 327.

⁽c) Green v. Thomson, 1 Sim. & Stu. 122.

fore that insufficiency is ascertained (d): and, though the consequence, on the other hand, if the answer should be found insufficient, may, also, be mischievous, yet the degree of mischief is not so considerable (e). If the costs have been accepted, indeed, the plaintiff must begin de novo: but if the costa. they were refused, he may go on with the old process, as soon as the answer is reported insufficient; and this without giving notice, for the defendant is bound to take notice of the report (f).

Consequences

Where exhibits in a cause are left, under the usual order, in the hands of the clerk in Court for a plaintiff or defendant, it is the invariable practice, if it become necessary to have those exhibits produced in Court, that the clerk in Court in whose custody they are so deposited, or some person authorized by and acting for him, should attend therewith, on payment of his fees and expenses. Such exhibits are never delivered up, for the aforesaid purpose, to any other person, unless by the consent of all parties, and upon payment of the fees of the clerk in Court (g). Where the object of a suit is to set aside deeds, the plaintiff has allowed; but, a right to have them produced, and left, in the without a special case, the deeds hands of the defendant's clerk in Court, for the not ordered into usual purposes of inspection; but, unless a special ground is made out, shewing good reason to be-

Production of

Inspection of impugned deeds

⁽d) Bonus v. Flack, 18 Ves. 287; Balfour v. Farguharson, 1 Sim. & Stu. 72.

⁽e) Waters v. Taylor, 16 Ves. 418.

⁽f) Boehm v. De Tastet, 1

Ves. & Bea. 327; Coulson v. Graham, 1 Ves. & Bea. 331; East India Company v. Dacres, 1 Cox, 343. See post, p. 112. (g) Harris v. Bodenham, 1 Sim. & Stu. 284.

lieve, that, the deeds will not be produced at the hearing, the Court will not take them into its own possession in the interval. If this were done without any ground of suspicion, beyond the mere suggestion of the bill, it would, to a certain extent, be prejudging the defendant's rights (h).

One suit must not embrace disent course as to depositions.

A plaintiff cannot be permitted to join in one tinct matters, re- suit, two distinct matters, one of which requires, quiring a differ- that, the depositions taken in the cause should not the publication of be published until the cause is ripe for hearing, and the other requires a previous publication of the very same depositions. Even in cases where it might be practicable for the parties to get at the same information by a different course of proceeding, that would be no sufficient reason why a Court of Equity should lend itself to an inconsistency; merely because it may be unable to prevent the inconvenience, likely to arise, from being In what cases effected without its aid or concurrence (i). may examine an. distinct claims against several parties grow out of one cause of suit, so that all may, consistently, be made defendants to the same bill of complaint, though the demands against them are not joint; but the suit is against one as to one subject, and against another as to a different subject: a Court of Equity will permit one defendant to be at liberty to examine another defendant as a witness, saving all just exceptions, upon an allegation, that, he is not interested in the matters as to which it is proposed to examine him. Otherwise, the plaintiff,

one defendant other as a witness;

⁽i) Dew v. Clarke, 1 Sim. (h) Beckford v. Wildman, 16Ves. 438. 442. & Stu. 115.

plaintiff, making all defendants in the same suit. might by that sort of mechanism deprive one of the benefit of the other's evidence (k); contrary to all fair dealing. And a defendant may obtain an or, a plaintiff, order for the examination of a plaintiff, who consents; but, on behalf of the co-plaintiffs, all just exceptions to such depositions will be saved (1).

who consents.

If at the hearing of a cause, an issue be directed; though one of the defendants to the suit in production of do-Equity decline becoming a party to the issue, he cumentary evidence enforced. cannot object to being included in the common order for the production of papers; for the Court has power over every party in the cause, who is interested in the question to be tried at Law, to compel such production as may be necessary for a complete trial (a). And, of course, a defendant What documents who, by submitting to answer, submits to make bound to prodiscovery, cannot, by merely insisting that the duce. plaintiff is entitled to no relief, resist the production of documents mentioned in his answer, as being in his power; and the contents of which he might have been compelled to set out (n).

When an issue is directed, a full

a defendant is

A defendant who omits filing a cross-bill till the original suit is near a hearing, may justly be publication in the original suit suspected of taking that tardy step merely for the will be stayed, until a cross-bill purpose of delay; if he had filed his cross-bill in is answered. due time, he might have moved to have publication in the original cause stayed, until an answer to the

In what cases

(1) Whateley v. Smith, 2 Dick. 650; Walker v. Wingfield, 15 cross-bill

⁽k) Murray v. Shadwell, 2 Ves. 178. Ves. & Bea. 405; Franklyn v. (m) Pindar v. Smith, 6 Mad. Colquhoun, 16 Ves. 219.

^{.(}n) Unsworth v. Woodcock, 3 Mad. 482.

Depositions taken in a cross cause, after publication passed in the principal cause, cannot be used at the hearing of that cause. cross-bill was put in; but where he has been guilty of laches he cannot stop the progress of the suit against him (o). If depositions in a cross cause, taken after publication of those made in the principal cause, were ever admitted as evidence on the hearing of that original cause; parties bringing a cross-bill would continually lie by till the plaintiff in the first suit had finished the examination of his witnesses. However unwilling, therefore, Courts of Equity must always be to shut out any evidence, yet, the general principle is too important to be waved in any case; and as such depositions might be fraudulently made, they cannot be used, even when no such suspicion attaches in the particular instance (p).

Why a commission to examine plaintiff's witnesses does not issue before the defendant has answered, or is in contempt:

Depositions made before issue is tendered in a cause, or before the defendant is in contempt, it has been held, are in the nature of voluntary affidavits only; and, therefore, a plaintiff cannot have a commission to examine witnesses abroad, until the defendant has answered, or is in contempt; in the latter case it would be unreasonable, that, the plaintiff should run the risk of losing the testimony necessary to establish his rights, by the default of the defendant (q). And it does not seem necessary, that, the defendant should be absolutely in contempt: if the regular time for answering is expired (r), though the defendant may have obtained orders for further time, Lord Eldon decided, that.

or at least until he has obtained orders for time.

⁽o) Coates v. Pearson, 4 Mad.

⁽p) Taylor v. Obee, 3 Price, 88; Ridley v. Obee, 3 Price, 30.

⁽q) King v. Allen, 4 Mad.

⁽r) Cheminant v. De la Gour, 1 Mad. 211.

that, the plaintiff may have a commission before answer (s); and, in many cases, it is plain, it might be very mischievous if the defendant could deprive the plaintiff of a commission, during all the period of orders for time. And, under such circumstances, depositions taken before issue joined, may, by order, be read even on a trial at Law (t).

Though a proceeding, merely in Equity, cannot be restrained by an injunction, granted by ano-by one Court of Equity, to stay ther independent Court of Equity, against pro-proceedings at Law, must not ceedings at Law: yet, where a commission is be contravened, moved for, in Chancery, in a cause instituted for another Court of the purpose of obtaining an examination of wit- Equity for a nesses abroad, in support of an action; such a examine witnesses in support of motion must be considered as a step in the proceed- the action. ings at Law, and, therefore, in contravention of an injunction by the Court of Exchequer, granted to stay proceedings in the action (u).

In consideration of the fraudulent management which might be practised, if a witness were per- prepared before-hand, suppressed. mitted to go before commissioners with a prepared deposition; whenever such a fact is disclosed, a Court of Equity, without attending to the particular circumstances, will order the deposition to be suppressed (w). The same rule, founded on As they will be the same principle, will be observed, when the so- when the solicitor on one side, licitor for one of the parties has acted as a com- or his clerk, take missioner (x); or, when his clerk has been em-cution of the

An injunction

Depositions.

part in the execommission.

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ployed
 (s) Bowden v. Hodge, 2 Swan.
                                 363.
                                   (w) Shaw v. Lindsay, 15 Ves.
  (t) Gordon v. Gordon, 1 Swan.
171.
                                   (x) Selwyn v. Gill, 2 Dick.
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(u) Novaes v. Dorrien, 4 Mad.

ployed as clerk to the commissioners for the examination of witnesses (u).

Examination as . to the credit of a witness, how restricted.

An examination to the credit of a witness who has been examined in the cause, must go only to the credit of the witness, and be confined to such facts as affect credit and character only, and are not material to the matters in issue in the cause (x): if, indeed, it be permissible to go into any particular facts whatever; or make any inquiry beyond the dry question,-whether the witness is to be believed on his oath (a)? It is obvious that, the only use of examining to credit is, that the Court may justly appreciate the testimony of the witness, to affect whose credit is the object of that examination. A party, therefore, who executes a commission for that purpose after the hearing of the cause, when it can be of no use. must pay the costs of such unnecessary proceeding. Upon a similar principle, if a party be permitted to go into new evidence upon a rehearing. still, if he even succeed, he ought, when it comes to the question of costs, to indemnify the other party, for not having produced that evidence at the original hearing (b).

A party must pay the costs of proceedings which are unnecessary; or not taken in regular time.

In general, the rules of evidence are the same in Courts of Equity as in Courts of Law; yet, in the plication of those application of those rules, diversities must necessarily arise, from the different modes of proceeding in the two jurisdictions. The grounds on which

Rules of evidence the same in Equity as at Law; but the aprules sometimes different: as in admitting the production of secondary evidence.

- (y) Newton v. Foot, 2 Dick. 793; Cooke v. Wilson, 4 Mad. 381.
 - (z) White v. Fussell, 1 Ves.
- & Bea. 153. (a) Anonym. 3 Ves. & Bea.
- 94. (b) White v. Fussell, ubi supra.

which secondary evidence of the contents of written instruments is admitted, are in both the same: namely, that, a party has not the means of producing the instruments themselves, either because they are lost or destroyed, or are in the possession or power of the adverse party. At Law, it is not known, till the time of trial, what evidence will be offered on either side: but, even there, when, from the nature of the proceeding, the party must know, that, the contents of a written instrument in his possession, will come into question, it is not necessary to give any notice for its production (c). And, in the Court of Chancery, as each party, before the hearing, is fully apprised of all the parol evidence that has been given on the other side, it is impossible that either should be taken by surprise, or unprepared to produce any written document in his possession, which is referred to in the depositions on the part of his opponent; and there can be no reason for shutting out secondary evidence, for want of notice which would be merely superfluous (d).

Courts of Equity are, properly, very jealous of Re-examination applications for the re-examination of a witness, liked; from the apprehension that he may, perhaps, be practised upon, in the interval between his first and (his proposed) second examination. And although with what rea witness has, upon his own application and affi-strictions it is davit, been permitted to have an opportunity, by lowed.

a re-examination.

(c) Rex v. Aickle, 1 Leach's Cr. L. 830, cited and confirmed in Bucher v. Jarratt, 3 Bos. &

Pull. 145; How v. Hall, 14 East. 275.

(d) Wood v. Strickland, 2 Meriv. 464.

Cases of evident mistake lay a ground for permitting re-examination:

especially, mistake on the part of the examiner.

of mistake will not suffice; it must be evident to the Court.

a re-examination, of correcting a specific error; yet the order was expressly confined to that single To allow a witness, upon his own allepurpose. gation of mistake, to be examined entirely de novo, would be enabling him to throw in the most pernicious alteration of his evidence (e). And even with respect to a specific mistake, the indulgenceof a re-examination will be but sparingly and cautiously granted. The distinctions upon which it has been granted, or refused, are not always very clearly laid down in the reports; but this principle may, perhaps, be collected from them; that, nothing but the strongest conviction of a mistake having been really made, will justify an order for a re-examination; but, where it is evident to the Court, that, the inaccuracy in the point to be corrected arose, truly and merely, from a mistake in the witness, it would not be doing justice to the party in the cause, not to permit it to be amended (f). And the propriety of such amendment would be still more evident, if the mistake appeared to have originated on the But allegation part of the examiner (g). But, in every case, the mistake must be evident to the Court itself; the allegation of the witness will not do: in one very special case, in which it was alleged, that, the witness was deaf, and owing to that infirmity had fallen into an error, which he was desirous, from motives of conscience only, to correct; a commission for

⁽e) Kirk v. Kirk, 13 Ves. 283, 5 Mad. 469. 286. (g) Ingram v. Mitchell, 5 (f) S. C. Rowley v. Ridley, 1 Ves. 299; Griells v. Gansen. Cox, 283; Asbee v. Shipley, 2 P.Wms. 646.

for his re-examination issued; but was afterwards suppressed by Lord Clarendon, on advising with the Master of the Rolls, and consulting the six clerks (k). This judgment is in conformity with modern decisions, and its soundness is evident; for, if a witness, after having once completed his depositions, were allowed to return to correct them; and, still more plainly, if he were allowed, on such re-examination, to introduce new matter; who does not see what latitude would be given to fraud, and artful suggestion, on the part of those interested in the effect of his depositions (i)?

. Equal mischief might arise from permitting a defendant to amend his answer; but, where no prin- for leave to amend an answer ciple of public policy would be infringed by the is looked upon with the same indulgence, and where it would benefit the plain-jealousy; tiff, (by removing out of his way the effect of a denial, or giving him the benefit of an admission,) the defendant may be permitted to file a supplemen-The Court, however, does not listen and leave to file tal answer. to the application without the most careful exami-answer is never nation; nor without a precise restriction of the granted without supplemental correction to be introduced (k): and fine the indulgence is only to be obtained under very particular circumstances, where it is sought to put on the record an addition prejudicial to the plaintiff.

precise restric-

(h) Randall v. Richford, 2 Freem. 178, and extract from Reg. Lib. in second edition of that work; where (it may be observed) the word plaintiff is misprinted for witness.

(i) Lord Abergavenny v.

Powell, 1 Meriv. 131; Bott. v. Birch, 5 Mad. 68; Asbee v. Shipley, ibid. 469.

(k) Strange v. Collins, 2 Ves. & Bea. 165, 167; Livesey v. Wilson, 1 Ves. & Bea. 149; Ridley v. Obee, Wightwick, 32.

ing answer taken abroad, by commission.

Where an answer has been taken Form of return- plaintiff (1). by commission abroad, the strict rule is, that, the messenger must make oath, before one of the Masters, identifying the instrument as being that which he received from the commissioners, and as being in the same state in which he received it. The latter part of this oath has been dispensed with, in a case where the answer was opened by mistake, but not then read, by the defendant's solicitor. This permission to file answers with some deviation from strict regularity, is not, however, to be granted without great caution (m).

What is deemed to constitute impertinence in answers.

The decision as to what, in each particular case, constitutes impertinence, is not always an easy one. Where what is pertinent is mixed up, in an answer, with what is impertinent, it may be impossible for the Master to separate the one from the other, and he may find it necessary to report the For, a defendant may set whole impertinent. forth an account, by an exhibition of all particulars, in such a way as, though in one sense it may be said to be pertinent, would not be the less nugatory and oppressive (n). If a plaintiff really desire to be furnished with these minute details, he will have no difficulty in explaining his purpose by a special interrogatory: but it would be highly inconvenient to hold, that, in answer to the common interrogatories, a defendant would be justified in loading the parties with the expense, which would

A defendant ought not to incumber the re-

⁽¹⁾ Edwards v. M'Leay, 2 (m) Cox v. Newman, 2 Ves. Ves. & Bea. 257; Curling v. & Bea. 170. Marquis Townsend, 19Ves.631. (n) Norway v. Rone, 1 Mer. 356.

would attend setting forth, in a schedule, a mere cord, and create transcript of tradesmen's bills, for instance, or the necessary details; prices in an auctioneer's catalogue (a). All that as to which he is not specially inis required in an answer, is, that, the defendant terrogated: should, fairly and pertinently, set forth so much of whatever instrument, or other document, respecting which he is interrogated, as is sufficient to satisfy the object and inquiry of the plaintiff's charge and interrogatory. The defendant must not wantonly incumber the record beyond that, so as unnecessarily to harass, and increase the difficulties of the plaintiff(p). A defendant would give information very oppressively, who merely set forth a schedule with reference to transactions spread over a long series of years; and from which schedule it might be nearly impossible to discover the totals really relevant to the question in dispute. It may happen, that, certain descriptions of defen- nor must be dants, (trustees, or executors, for example,) can Master's office a give no better information; and, that, the accounts when he is able will enable the plaintiff to learn as much as the to give informadefendants know: but to that extent they must cincily. pledge themselves. The Court will not permit accounts to be thrown into the Master's office, unless the body of the answer contain an averment, that, that is the best information the defendants can give (q). As the defendant is never bound to What is immateanswer such parts of the plaintiff's bill as are not not be answered. material, it is the constant practice, in the Courts

expense, by un-

throw into the tion more suc-

(o) S. C. Beaumont v. Beaumont, 5 Mad. 52; M'Morris v. Elliott, 8 Price, 676; Alsager v. Johnson, 4 Ves. 225.

⁽p) King v. Teale, 7 Price, 280.

⁽q) White v. Williams, 8 Ves. 195.

At what time exceptions to a nency may be taken.

When objec-

first made.

Costs of mo-

both of Chancery and the Exchequer, to decide upon exceptions with reference to their immateriality (r): But, exceptions to a report of impertiexceptions to a reported imperti. nence cannot be taken after the impertinent matter has been expunged; though before this has been actually done, exceptions may be taken to the report, notwithstanding an order to expunge has been obtained: a special application, however, must be made to the Court to suspend, or discharge, the order (s): When a question has been referred ter's report ought to a Master, it is generally necessary that objectoroperly to be tions (if any content of an tions (if any are intended to be made) should be taken to the draft of the report, before the party can except; in order that the Master may have an opportunity of reconsidering his opinion: and this is not form but substance. If, however, through accident or surprise, that has not been done, the Court will give the party leave to except, upon a proper affidavit of such accident or surprise (t).

By a General Order (u), it is directed, that, tions abandoned; "when a party gives notice of motion, and does not move accordingly, he shall, if no affidavit be filed, pay to the other side forty shillings costs, upon production of the notice of motion. But when an affidavit is filed by either party, the party giving such notice of motion, and not moving, shall pay to the other side costs, to be taxed by the Master. unless the Court itself shall direct, upon produc-

> (r) Agar v. Regent's Canal Company, Cooper, 215; Hirst v. Peirse, 4 Price, 344; Askam v. Thompson, 4 Price, 337.

⁽s) Mortimer v. West, 3 Swanst. 230.

⁽t) Bowker v. Nixon, Mad. 439; Pennington v. Lord Muncaster, 1 Mad. 555.

⁽u) Dated 5th of August, 181 Stated's Mad. 318.

tion of the notice of motion, what sum shall be paid for costs." Until such costs are paid, the till such costs party cannot be heard to make any motion in the the party cannot cause (w). And where a party has been directed move again in the cause; and if he to pay the costs of previous applications, which have obtained any subsequent costs have been taxed but not paid; any subse-order, it will be quent orders obtained by the same party will, on motion, be discharged for irregularity (x). Upon Practice when a the principle of not allowing one party, vexatiously, to put another to the expense of preparing to argument, does not appear at the meet a question, which, at the expected time for time it is called discussion, is abandoned; if a defendant set down a plea for argument, but, when it is called on, do not appear; upon affidavit of service upon the plaintiff of the order to set down the plea, it will be overruled; without such affidavit the plea can only be sruck out; it will not, however, be restored to the paper, unless the party making default properly accounts for his not having been prepared when the plea was called on (y).

have been paid, discharged.

A bill of interpleader will lie, although one of Practice up bills of interthe parties claiming the property is out of the pleader. jurisdiction; otherwise, by fraudulently absenting himself, he might prevent the other claimant from obtaining justice. If the answer of the absent defendant be not put in, in reasonable time, a perpetual injunction will be awarded against him (x); and when an answer has been put in by one of the defendants.

Practice upon

⁽w) Bellchamber v. Giani, 3 Mad. 550.

⁽x) Killing v. Killing, 6 Mad. 68.

⁽y) Mazzaredo v. Maitland,

² Mad. 38.

⁽z) Martinius v. Helmuth & Schmidt, Coop. 248; Stevenson v. Anderson, 2 Ves. &

Bea. 412.

defendants, should there be any improper delay on the part of the plaintiff in getting in the answers of the other defendant, that will afford a special ground upon which the party who has answered may move to have the money paid out to him, if it has been brought into Court (a).

Bill taken pro confesso against an absconding the statute.

If a defendant abscond in evasion of process, and in order to disappoint a plaintiff's just claims; defendant, under the bill may, by statute (b), be taken pro confesso against him, and such decree made thereon as may seem just: provided it appear by affidavit, that, such defendant had been in England within two years next before the subpæra issued. And if a may enter an ap- defendant be brought into Court upon habeas corpus, and refuse to enter his appearance, the Court may enter it for him, and such proceeding may be thereupon had, as if the party had himself entered an appearance.

The Court pearance for a defendant who refuses to do so, when brought in upon habeas corpus.

Bills taken pro confesso against members of Parreturn of protion.

With respect to persons having privilege of Parliament, it is, by a more recent statute (c), liament, after the wholesomely provided, that, bills may be taken cess of sequestra. pro confesso against them, after the return of process of sequestration for enforcing their appearance, without the necessity of shewing that they have absconded (which their personal privilege renders an unnecessary evasion) to avoid the process of the Court. It was on one occasion (d), held, (according to the report,) that the 5th section of the last cited statute applied to bills for discovery alone:

⁽a) S. C. Hyde v. Warren, 19 Ves. 323.

⁽c) Stat. 45 Geo. 3, cap. 124. (d) Jones v. Davis, 17 Ves-

⁽b) Stat. 5 Geo. 2, cap. 25.

alone: but, in a later case (e), it was said, that, this was a misapprehension, and could not govern the practice: principle there clearly seems none for confining the relief given by the act to bills for discovery merely: unless the language of the statute be thought too explicit to admit another construction; but it seems worded with that happy laxity, which leaves to judicial interpretation the task of fixing the meaning of the legislature.

A bill may be taken pro confesso although a demurrer, or plea, has been filed, if the same be over- Court a bill may ruled; or although an answer has been put in, if fesso, after a deit be reported insufficient (f); for, in none of these answer overrulcases can it be said that the plaintiff has made de-ed, or declared insufficient. And, notwithstanding a full answer has been put into the original bill; yet, if the bill be amended, and the amendments are not answered. the bill may be taken pro confesso generally, for the original bill and the amendments form but one $\mathbf{record}(\mathbf{g}).$

In the ordinary course of the

Where a decree upon a bill taken pro confesso Mode of imis made after appearance, according to the ordinary course of the Court, it can only be impeached a bill taken pro confesso in the by bill of review, or a bill to set it aside for fraud. ordinary course Where a similar decree is made under the before or under the cited statute of the 5th Geo. 2. the sixth section of that statute prescribes the conditions upon which

⁽e) Logan v. Grant, 1 Mad. 626. See the next chapter.

⁽f) Attorney General v. Young, 3 Ves. 209; Turner v. Turner, 1 Dick. 316; Davis v. Davis, 2 Atk. 24; Gregor v.

Lord Arundel, 8 Ves. 88: see infra.

⁽g) Jopling v. Stuart, 4 Ves. 619; Bacon v. Griffiths, ibid. in note.

which proceedings may be recommenced, as if no such decree had been made (h). It is with this qualification at least, that the dictum of Sir John Leach, V. C. must be understood, when he said there was no difference whether a hill is taken A decree pro pro confesso, before or after appearance (i). In one drawn up by the respect there certainly seems to be no difference. whenever a bill is taken pro confesso, whether in the ordinary course or under the statute, such a decree is to be made as in the judgment of the Court shall seem fit; the plaintiff is not allowed to take such a decree as he chooses to abide by (k).

confesso must be Court, not by the plaintiff.

Effect of plain-tiff's acceptance taking the bill pro confesso.

When, after an order for taking a bill pro conof an answer, fesso, an answer is put in, the plaintiff, by acceptater an order for ing (1) such answer, waves the process: but the order will not be discharged, where the answer is not so accepted, upon mere payment of costs; the Court will at least see what sort of answer it is proposed to put in(m). And if, in such case, an answer be put upon the file, but not accepted by the plaintiff, he may move to have it taken off the file for irregularity: but if he have so far recognized the answer as to take an office copy of it, he

cannot

⁽h) Ogilvie v. Herne, 13 Ves. 564; Short v. Downer, 2 Cox. 84; Mawer v. Mawer, 1 Cox, 104.

⁽i) Landon v. Ready, 1 Sim. & Stu. 44: See Nodes v. Battle, 2 Cha. Rep. 284; Anonym. 2 Freem. 127.

⁽k) Geary v. Sheridan, 8 Ves. 192; Knight v. Young, 2 Ves. & Bea. 186.

⁽¹⁾ Hawkins v. Croke, Mosley, 389; Williams v. Thomson, as the reports of that case, in 1 Cox 413, and 2 Br. 279, are corrected in 11 Ves. 77: and see, infrà, the effect of such acceptance as to costs of the con-

⁽m) Herne v. Ogilvie, 11 Ves. 77.

cannot subsequently treat it as a nullity (*). And An order for after an order for taking a bill pro confesso; if a confesso not disdefendant apply on the score of surprise, or acci-charged, on the defendant's applident, and within a reasonable time, the Court cation, unless strong grounds might, on making out such special case, listen to are shewu. him (o): but, to get rid of the order, a strong ground is necessary, the Court being very tender of opening a decree of this sort. A distinction must, certainly, be admitted, between default proceeding from obstinacy, and that which may be supposed to proceed from imbecility of mind. The Court would be disposed to assist the latter case; but the fact embracing the whole period of delay, must be established by other evidence than that of the party himself (p).

taking a bill pro

When a defendant to a suit in Chancery, be- When a defending in the custody of the Warden of the King's and attempts to evade the process Bench, is brought up to the bar of the Court of of Chancery, by a fraudulent use Chancery, to answer for his contempt in not put. of the writ of hating in an answer to the bill filed against him; out in the King's and, on his persisting in his said contempt, he is against him may turned over to the Fleet, under an order, that, at be taken processing. the return of an habeas corpus cum causis, the Warden of the Fleet shall bring him again to the bar: if the defendant cause himself to be removed back to the King's Bench, by habeas corpus, in order to elude the process of the Court of Chancery; the bill will be ordered to be taken pro confesso against him, unless he put in his answer by the time at which an alias pluries would, regularly, have

beas corpus sued

⁽n) Sedgier v. Tyte, 11 Ves. 1 Cox 413.

^{202.} (p) Knight v. Young, 2 Ves.

⁽o) Williams v. Thompson, & Bea. 186.

have issued against him(q). It must be understood, however, that, it is only where a man is confined in another prison under process in a civil cause, that he can be turned over to the Fleet cum causis; a prisoner brought up before the Court of Chancery from confinement under a criminal charge, must be remanded to the prison from which he came; and as, in such case, the process of the Court of Chancery cannot reach him, no alias pluries can issue, upon which a decree pro confesso could be founded (r).

Cross-bill for a discovery, if taken pro confesso, read as evidence at the hearing of the original bill.
Bill may be

taken pro confesso though seques. tration has been executed.

When a bill may be taken pro confesso on motion; and when the cause must be set down:

but in the latter case, the cause may be advanc-.ed;

A cross-bill for a discovery, if taken pro confesso, may be read as evidence at the hearing of the original bill (s); and, as against the defaulter, the allegations in the cross-bill must be taken to be true: nor is a plaintiff to be told, that, because he has a sequestration, for want of answer, executed against a defendant, he must stop there; he may still proceed, in Equity, till he has procured the bill to be taken pro confesso (t).

If there be only one defendant, who is in custody. the bill may be taken pro confesso upon motion; the clerk in Court attending with the record: but if there be more defendants than one, (and, where an only defendant is not in custody,) the cause must be set down(u). But such a cause may, on motion, be advanced to the head of the paper (w); for

- (q) Sturges v. Brown, 2 Mer. 511; Prendergast v. Saubergue, 2 Meriv. 512, in note.
- (r) Moss v. Brown, 1 Ves. & Bea. 307: and see Rogers v. Kirkpatrick, 3 Ves. 573.
- (s) Cory v. Gertcken, 2 Mad. 45.
- (t) Davis v. Davis, 2 Atk.
- (u) Seagrave v. Edwards, 3 Ves. 372; Attorney General v. Young, 3 Ves. 209.
- (w) Hart v. Ashton, 1 Mad. 175,

for it would be aiding the fraudulent delay of justice, attempted by the defendant, if the cause were to wait its regular turn for hearing. It is upon as it may when this principle, that, if a decree nisi has been obtain-, been obtained, if ed for default of the defendant's appearance, he will delay would prevent complete be ordered to shew cause at an early day; without justice. waiting for the decision of the causes already set $\operatorname{down}(x)$. For it is in the discretion of the Court to direct any cause to be advanced, whenever such a measure appears necessary for the purposes of complete justice (y).

a decree nisi has

A plaintiff by amending his original bill (how-by amending his ever slight the amendments may be (x),) after the original bill after filing of a cross-bill, loses his priority; and cannot loses his priority. insist on an answer to his bill before he answers The proceedings on the original the cross-bill. bill are not, however, stayed, merely by the amendment; it is necessary, that, the plaintiff in the cross-bill should move for an order to stay proceedings in the original suit until the plaintiff shall have fully answered the cross-bill. When no such order has been obtained, an attachment may be issued by, or an injunction sustained on the part of, the original plaintiff (a).

A defendant to an injunction bill may frame a On the coming in of an answer plausible case by way of answer, and then come to an injunction into Court with an assertion that he has fully an- bill, exceptions may be shewn for

swered.

⁽x) Margravine of Anspach v. Noel, 1 Mad. 313; S. C. 19 Ves. 573.

⁽y) Hoyle v. Livesay, 1 Mer. 382.

⁽z) Johnson v. Freer, 2 Cox,

⁽a) Noel v. King, 1 Mad. 394; Mason v. Murray, 2 Dick. 536.

cause against dis- swered, in order to procure the injunction to be solving the injunction;

dissolved. The Court itself has not the means of iudging whether the assertion be true, and can only ascertain the fact by a reference. It is upon this ground (which, though it may occasionally expose a defendant to unmerited inconvenience. is, upon the whole, the course least open to fraudulent abuse,) that, upon an order to dissolve the injunction, unless cause shewn, the Court allows exceptions to be shewn for cause; and that even even though such when no exceptions are actually on the file, upon not actually filed: the plaintiff's undertaking to file them immediatebut if the Master ly. But if, on a reference to the Master, the answer be reported sufficient, the injunction is ipso facto gone, and an exception to the Master's report will not uphold it (b). The rule is the same where there has been a reference for imperfor impertinence. tinence, and the answer is reported to be not impertinent (c). And in neither case is the plaintiff without remedy, if the Court should differ from the Master in its opinion as to the sufficiency, or pertinency, of the defendant's answer; for, on the allowance of exceptions to the report, the injunction may be revived (d).

to be sufficient. an exception to the report will not uphold the injunction: the rule is the same upon a reference

report the auswer

exceptions are

A motion for an injunction can

An injunction, except it be to stay waste, can, only be made on out of term, only be moved for on a seal day: ascalday; except in cases of waste, if on that day the party be not prepared to move, no injunction can be moved for on the following

⁽b) Vipan v. Mortlock, 2 Mer. 479; Botham v. Clarke, 2 Cox, 429; Bishton v. Birch, 1 Ves. & Bea. 44.

⁽c) Corson v. Stirling, Coop.

^{94;} Raphael v. Birdwood, 1 Swanst. 232.

⁽d) Botham v. Clark, ubi suprà.

day, although motions may then be continued, for it is not a seal day (e).

Though Courts of Equity are not disposed to Injunctions exparte, not grantextend the practice of granting injunctions ex ed as of course, parte (f); more particularly when the inconvenience, which may arise from delay, does not appear to be more prejudicial to the plaintiff, than a summary interposition in the defendant's absence might possibly be to him (g); yet, when a case is made but require a speby affidavit, entitling the plaintiff to the interfer- cial case, verified by affidavit. ence of the Court, the balance of convenience must be considered, and when acts are sworn to as threatened, which, if completed, may produce irremediable mischief, it can only be deemed a salutary exercise of jurisdiction to interpose by injunction (h). But, when an injunction has been moved for, on the merits disclosed in the answer, and refused; it would be absurd to hold that a plaintiff, merely by amending his bill could obtain an injunction, as of course (i). Where an injunction has been granted, merely exparte, for delay ments allowed without prejuin putting in an answer, an amendment, and, un-dice to an injunction: der very particular circumstances, a re-amendment of a bill may be obtained, by special motion, without prejudice to the injunction, even after an

(e) Rowe v. Jarrold, 5 Mad. 45.

Johnson, 2 Wils. Ch. Ca. 96. 102; Crowder v. Tinkler, 19 Ves. 622.

answer

⁽f) Attorney General v. Cleaver, 18 Ves. 217.

⁽g) Winstanley v. Lee, 2 Swanst. 386.

⁽h) Attorney General v.

⁽i) Bliss v. Boscawen, 2 Ves. & Bea. 103; Norris v. Kennedy, 11 Ves. 568.

course, when the injunction was obtained upon the merits. swer has been been allowed: but the exceptions must first be disposed of.

it is a motion of answer is filed (k). If the injunction was obtained upon the merits, a motion to amend, without prejudice to the injunction, is a motion of course. or where an an- and may be made without notice (1): and, where put in, to which an answer is put in, to which exceptions have exceptions have been taken, and allowed, it is a motion of course, that, the defendant may answer the amendments and exceptions together (m): but it is irregular to obtain an order to amend, until the exceptions are disposed of (n).

Generally, a defendant, who where the amendments make neral rule.

As a general rule, a defendant, who has once has once answer- answered, cannot, upon being called upon to put ed, cannot, upon in a further answer to exceptions allowed and the bill being amended, plead to amendments, plead to the whole bill. If, however. the plaintiff, knowing his case was open to a plea. an entirely new so frame his original bill as to make an answer necase, justice may require a qualific cessary; and, having got that answer, then by cation of the ge- amendment changes the whole character of the bill, so as to make it open to a plea; it might be most injurious, in many cases, to confine the plea to the amendments; for, had those amendments appeared as part of the original bill, the very facts to which the answer applied might thereby have been so qualified, that the plaintiff could not have had an answer even to that part of the bill. In such

⁽k) Sharp v. Ashton, 3 Ves. & Bea. 147; Vesey v. Wilks, 3 Mad. 475; Pratt v. Archer, 1 Sim. & Stu. 433.

⁽¹⁾ Pratt v. Archer, ubi su-

⁽m) Dipper v. Durant, 3

Mer. 465; Abney v. Flood, 1 Mer. 449.

⁽n) Dixon v. Redmond 2 Sch. & Lef. 515; Edwards v. Johnson, 1 Pr. 203; Turner v. Bazeley, 2 Ves. & Bea. 331.

such case, therefore, the defendant must have liberty to plead, or in some way to apply to the Court to restrain the plaintiff from putting on the record a totally new statement, perhaps calling for a discovery that would implicate the defendant in criminality (o).

The ordinary practice of Courts of Equity does not admit a double plea; where, however, great ty, only on speinconvenience would be sustained, (as, where long accounts must be set forth,) if the defendant were not permitted to plead a double plea, the Court will, on a special application, give leave to file it (p).

We have seen, that, an insufficient answer is considered as no answer (q); and this rule applies $_{\text{none.}}^{\text{answer}}$ not only to answers to bills, but extends (in practice, as it clearly does in principle,) to answers to interrogatories (r). We have seen, also, where a defendant has been previously in contempt, the tiff may go on with the old proplaintiff may go on with the old process, as soon as cess after an answer is reported the answer is reported insufficient, unless he have insufficient; or accepted costs (s). And the plaintiff may, after he waves that an answer is reported insufficient, wave his right to immediate process, and liberate the defendant from his own undertaking, by serving him with a subpæna for a better answer; which is a consent, by the plaintiff's own act, to allow eight days. Upon this subpæna he may, also, make it impossi-

A double plea allowed, in Equicial application.

by what steps

⁽o) Ritchie v. Alywin, 15 Ves. 82, 83,

⁽p) Gibson v. Whitehead, 4 Mad. 245.

⁽q) Gregor v. Lord Arundel, 8 Ves. 88; East India Com-

pany v. Dacres, 1 Cox, 343.

⁽r) Weston v. Jay, 1 Mad.

⁽s) Hill v. Turner, 2 Ves. & Bea. 372: see ante, p. 97; see, also, next page.

ble to act forthwith, by taking exceptions himself to the report; as, while these exceptions are depending, the defendant cannot frame his answer: for it would be unreasonable to require him to consider the report, as far as it is in his favor, wrong. Under these very special circumstances, therefore, the defendant will be entitled to eight days time for putting in a further answer, after the exceptions are disposed of (t).

Plaintiff should not accept an answer without receiving the costs of a previous contempt.

By accepting an answer, without insisting on receiving the costs of a previous contempt, the plaintiff waves his right to recover such costs by the process of contempt; whether he may be able to obtain them on the hearing, as costs in the cause, is very doubtful (x).

Motion for time, made on the same attachment issues,

When an attachment issues, it is considered as day on which an issued on the first moment of the day on which it issues; consequently, a motion for time, made on the day on which the attachment issues, cannot be sustained (w). Upon the same principle, if an answer come in the evening before, and be actually filed in the morning of the day on which the attachment issues, the attachment has precedence: and, consequently, so has an injunction founded on such attachment (x).

or even an answer filed the same day, too late.

> The rule as to orders for time is, that, where the defendant means to demur only, he must do that without

Within what period a demurrer must be put in.

- (t) Agar v. The Regent's Canal Company, 19 Ves. 380.
- (u) Const v. Ebers, 1 Mad. 532; Anonym. 15 Ves. 175; Smith v. Blofield, 2 Ves. & Bea. 101.
- (w) Stephens v. Neale, 1 Mad. 551.
- (x) King v. Harrison, cited 1 Mad. 551; Brace v. Webb, 2 Meriv. 475; Whitehouse v. Hickman, 1 Sim & Stu. 103.

without asking time; unless a very special case is made(y): but, although the regular period of eight days after appearance has expired, a demurrer may still be put in, provided process of contempt has not issued (s), and the defendant has not obtained an order for time: or elected to have an injunction taken against him upon a dedimus potestatem (a). If the defendant apply for time, he may ask time to answer only; or for time to plead, answer, or answer, or dedemur; but it is always made a condition of this mur, defendant latter order, that, the defendant shall not demur only. alone: the Court, as to that, imposes upon him the necessity of such timely attention to the case, as will enable those who are to advise him to determine, whether the defence should be by demurrer in the first instance, or not. Where the application is for time to answer, without more, the general rule is, that, the defendant is bound to answer: for his application is an admission, that, the case calls for an answer, and an answer only. It will require a special case for dispensing with of surprise must be shewn by a the practice (b). By a "special case" must be un-defendant who derstood, in this instance, some peculiar circum- after having apstance, as surprise; it is not sufficient to shew, answer only. that, a demurrer would be a proper mode of de-The defendant should have considered this in due time; if such an after-thought were admitted, it might be fraudulently used as a means

Under an order for time to plead,

A special case wishes to demur,

of

⁽y) Taylor v. Milner, 10

⁽z) Sowerby v. Warder, 2 Cox, 268; East India Company v. Henchman, 3 Br. 373.

⁽a) Edmonds v. Savery, 3

Meriv. 309.

⁽b) Taylor v. Milner, 10

Ves. 447.

⁽c) Bruce v. Allen, 1 Mad. 557.

rer overruled, the application for time to plead, or answer, should be special.

of delaying the plaintiff still further, after the indulgence of the several orders for time had been ob-After a demur- tained: and if the demurrer were overruled, the defendant might hope to obtain another order for time to plead, or answer: which order, indeed, according to one case (d), is of course; though Lord Eldon has, subsequently, determined, that, a special application is necessary (e).

vived for default of answer to amended bill lar time:

Authority has been cited, above, to shew, that, although the regular time has elapsed, the plaintiff may put in a demurrer, at any time before process Injunction re of contempt has issued: but, for the purpose of reviving an injunction for want of answer to an within the regu- amended bill, it is enough if the defendant be in default, although not actually in contempt (f). And, when, after an injunction has been dissolved upon the coming in of the answer, the plaintiff amends his bill, and requires a further answer; if the defendant pray a dedimus to take his answer, this will be considered as a dilatory, and the injunction will be revived: for, it would be against common sense, and common justice, to allow a defendant to take advantage of his own laches (g). but, the applica- But, in both these cases, the application to revive the injunction must be special, upon notice; and, in the former of the two cases, supported by affidavit (h) of the material facts stated in the amend-

tion to revive the injunction must be special.

> (d) Griffith v. Wood, 1 Ves. & Bea. 541.

Meriv. 476.

⁽e) Jones v. Saxby, Sittings after M. T. 1814; See Reg. Lib. A. 1814, fol. 99.

⁽f) Vipan v. Mortlock, 2

⁽g) Edwards v. Edwards, 2 Dick. 758; Bagster v. Walkcr, 1 Dick. 109; Penfold v. Stoveld, 3 Mad. 472.

⁽h) James v. Downes, 18 Ves. 523.

ment, and that they were not in the plaintiff's knowledge at the time when he filed his original bill (i).

As a general rule, there should be no motion for a special injunction, after appearance, without no-tion, after aptice (k); but, if a person against whom a bill is pearance, notice is generally nefiled to stay waste, could prevent the motion by cenary; but appearing the evening before, he would get two may require an days for the further commission of, perhaps irreparable, mischief; the injunction, therefore, will not be so delayed: though it might be different if the appearance had been entered long enough to have enabled the plaintiff to give notice (1). The fact of the defendant's appearance must be stated, to distinguish the case from the ordinary one of an injunction for default of appearance (m).

Even after an answer has been put in, affidavits may be admitted in support of the allegations vits in support of the allegations of made by a bill for an injunction, if those allega- an injunction bill, tions go only to substantiate particular facts stated after an answer in the bill, and not noticed by the answer: but affidavits are never received in contradiction to assertions positively made by the answer (n); or where the facts have not been charged, by the bill, so as to give the defendant an opportunity of answering them (o).

To obtain a cases of waste

Where affidamay be received

A

Meriv. 1.

⁽i) Sharp v. Ashton, 3 Ves. & Bea. 148: see ante, p. 83.

⁽k) Marasco v. Boiton, 2 Ves. Senr. 112.

⁽¹⁾ Aller v. Jones, 15 Ves. 605.

⁽m) Harrison v. Cockerell, 3

⁽n) Morgan v. Goode, 3 Mer. 11; Jefferies v. Smith, 1 Jac. & Walk. 300.

⁽o) Smythe v. Smythe, 1 Swanst. 253; Lawson v. Morgan, 1 Pr. 306.

A special iniunction to restrain proceedobtained the tion.

in Equity put in a demurrer just before the common injunction oblained, merely with a view to post on his action at Law; he will not be allowed to avail himself of this tricky practice.

Injunction to restrain the sailing of a ship; when granted;

refused.

A special injunction, to restrain proceedings at Law, is never granted in the first instance, except ings at Law, not where the party had not an opportunity of obtaingranted in the where the party and arrived in the first instance: at ing the common injunction; as, when judgment party might have has been entered up, upon a warrant of attorcommon injunctured new (p). And, even under these circumstances. the Court of Exchequer has, in a recent case, refused to interfere; intimating that a Court of Law would, on equitable grounds, grant relief (a). If a defendant But, where a defendant in Equity, just before the common injunction might otherwise have been obtained, puts in a demurrer, pending which he might have been posts on his action at Law, and takes the body of the plaintiff (in Equity) in execution, this management will not avail him. If the demurrer cannot be sustained, it will be ordered, that, the plaintiff (in Equity) shall be discharged, on undertaking again to confess judgment, so that he may not say the existing judgment and debt have been satisfied by the execution; which, without such precaution, would have that effect at Law(r).

Although there is no doubt of the jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery to restrain the sailing of a ship, on the application of a dissentient partowner, until security is given for the amount of and in what cases his interest (s); yet, where an injunction, having this object, is only moved for just as the ship is about to sail, no order will be made; at least, not unless

⁽p) Franklyn v. Thomas, 8 Meriv. 226; Annesley Rookes, ibid. in note.

⁽q) Naylor v. Christie, 8 Pr. 534.

⁽r) Franklyn v. Thomas, 3 Meriv. 238. 235; Raynes v. Wysc, 2 Meriv. 473.

⁽s) Haly v. Goodson, 2 Mer. 79.

unless the party can satisfactorily shew he had no opportunity of coming for relief sooner, and that he was guilty of no laches, by fraudulently lying by till after charter parties were made, thereby exposing the defendants to the risk of demurrage and other like consequences (t).

A subpara to hear judgment must be properly indorsed to that effect; otherwise the defendant must be properly will not be bound to appear; and a decree niei, indorned. made for the supposed default, will be discharged, with costs, as being irregularly obtained (u). But, the death of one of the defendants does not neces-the death of one of the defendant. sarily prevent judgment (w). A party who is served with notice of motion, though not interest- unnecessarily ed therein, is entitled to be indemnified for the ex-titled to costs of pense occasioned by his prudence in appearing pursuant to such notice (x).

Subpana to

Judgment after the death of one

A party served with notice, enappearance.

The right of appeal is so important to the due administration of Equity, that, in order to deprive secured. a defendant of this privilege, the strictest regularity of practice must be pursued; according to which, the docket ought not to be presented to the Lord Chancellor for his signature, until after the order to enroll nunc pro tunc has been passed and entered. A caveat, too, delays the enrolment twenty-eight days after the docket has been presented, and notice given; and, it is now settled, these must be twenty-eight clear days (y).

Opportunity of appeal, how

(t) Christie v. Craig, 2 Mer. 461.

(x) Heneage v. Aikin, 1 Jac. & Walk. 877.

(u) Powell v. Martyn, 1 Jac. & Walk, 292,

(y) Robinson v. Newdick, 8

(n) Davies v. Davies, 9 Ves.

Meriv. 15.

aside a decree signed and enrolled.

Mode of setting A decree made absolute, signed and enrolled, can be set aside by original bill only: if such bill contain a charge of gross fraud in obtaining the decree, that charge at least must be denied, and all the alleged circumstances of fraud answered: a mere plea, in bar, of the very decree which is so impugned will be overruled (x).

Writ of ne exest applied to civil causes; but cautiously.

The writ of ne exeat regno is a high prerogative writ; which the Court of Chancery does not apply to civil causes without great caution, as it may lead to very extensive, and very harsh conse-Subject to this jealous watchfulquences (a). ness, however, the writ has, for nearly two centuries past at least, been granted, in proper cases, though of private concern; in order to prevent Practice of the evasion from just demands (b). And the Court of Exchequer grants orders in the nature of this writ, applying such orders, only to such cases as those to which the Court of Chancery would apply the writ (c).

Exchequer in this respect.

Grounds for granting this writ: ed must be an equitable one;

To support an application for this writ, there must, in general, be an affidavit stating positively the debt claim- a debt, actually due (d); and that it is an equitable demand upon which the plaintiff cannot sue at Law (e); and, further, that the defendant intends

to

- (z) Lloyd v. Mansell, 2 P. Wms. 74.
- (a) Howden v. Rogers, 1 Ves. & Bea. 132; Dick v. Swinton, ibid. 373; Hannay v. M'Entire, 11 Ves. 55.
- (b) Sir Robert Henly's case, 2 Cha. Ca. 245; Mead's case; cited in Read v. Read, 1 Cha. Ca. 116.
- (c) Bernal v. Marquis of Donegal, 11 Ves. 46.
- (d) Cock v. Ravie, 6 Ves. 284; Anonym. 1 Atk. 521; De Carriere v. Calonne, 4 Ves.
- (e) Jackson v. Petrie, 10 Ves. 165; Pannell v. Taylor, 1 Turn. & Rus. 103.

to quit the kingdom to avoid payment; or that the debt will, thereby, be in danger of being lost (f). The granting this writ when there is a or dependent on balance due upon account, although the debtor account; might be held to bail at Law, and the amount due is not certain, has always been considered a case of exception to the general rule (g). Cases of or arream of alialimony, where arrears are actually due, form another admitted exception (h). And the necessity of a positive affidavit as to a threat, or purpose, of the rules which the defendant to go abroad, may also admit a pos- affidaviti that the debtor threatens sible exception, when the information has been to go abroad; derived from persons of the defendant's own family, who could not be brought forward to make an affidavit. Nor can an affidavit of the debt be ne- and of the nature cessary, where its existence and nature are authenticated by the Master's report (i).

The actual existence of a money demand being essential to justify the issuing a writ of ne exeat; tual money deit follows, that, it cannot be granted to enforce mand; not to enforce performspecific performance of an agreement (k): or to auce of an agreecompel the defendant to abide the event of an ac-similar purpose, tion (1); or to fulfil his undertaking to give an indemnity

Exceptions to

The writ only issued on an acment, or other

⁽f) Tomlinson v, Harrison, 8 Ves. 38; Stewart v. Graham, 19 Ves. 315; Etches v. Lance, 7 Ves. 417; Jones v. Alephsin, 16 Ves. 472; Hyde v. Whitfield, 19 Ves. 344. (g) Blaydes v. Calvert, 2 Jac.

[&]amp; Walk. 213; Jones v. Sampson, 8 Ves. 594; Jackson v. Petrie, ubi supra.

⁽h) Dawson v. Dawson, 7 Ves. 173.

⁽i) Collinson's case, 18 Ves. 355.

⁽k) Raynes v. Wyse, 2 Mer. 473; Blaydes v. Calvert, ubi suprà; Anonym. 2 Dick. 497, note.

⁽¹⁾ Gardiner's case, 15 Ves.

indemnity to the plaintiff who, on the faith of that undertaking, had become a surety (m).

In cases of alimony the writ only marked for sums actually due:

to go further would be invading the jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts.

We have just seen, that, where arrears are actually due in respect of alimony, the writ of ne exeat may be applied; but it can only be marked for sums actually due; that is, for arrears and costs: to go further, even when a decree for alimony has been made in the Ecclesiastical Court. would be trenching upon that jurisdiction, which may see cause to vary its decree: and, a fortiori, it would, now, seemingly, be impossible to obtain the writ in anticipation of a decree for alimony; for no Court, either of Law or Equity, is authorized to decide whether a woman be, or be not, entitled to alimony; or when she may (if entitled) obtain it, and to what amount: these points are all within the discretion of the Spiritual Court (n). Lord Hardwicke's doctrine in this respect,-namely, that, as the Ecclesiastical Court cannot hold to bail, the Court of Chancery would lend its assistance in favor of the wife, and in aid of the Ecclesiastical jurisdiction (o); seems overruled (p): The objections to it appear, indeed, insurmountable; if such a practice were acted upon, it would not merely obtrude unasked-for aid upon an independent Court, but would forestal

⁽m) Cock v. Ravie, 6 Ves. 284.

⁽n) Shaftoe v. Shaftoe, 7 Ves. 172; Haffey v. Haffey, 14 Ves. 261.

⁽o) Pearns v. Lisle, Ambl. 76; Anonym. 2 Atk. 210:

and see a similar doctrine held by Lord Nottingham, in Smithson's case; 2 Ventr. 345.

⁽p) Coglar v. Coglar, 1 Ves. Junr. 95; and the cases cited in the last note but one.

stal the judgment of the only competent jurisdiction.

Lord Thurlow held, that, when the only evidence, in support of an application for a ne execut, against a huswas an affidavit of a wife against her husband; the davit of his wife writ could not be granted (q): Lord Eldon, however, seems to have considered the wife as a competent witness against her husband, in such cases (r).

Whether the writ may issue band, on the affi-

In one case, Lord Manners, Chancellor of Ire-Quare, also, whether the writ land, issued the writ of ne exeat in aid of the pro- can be applied in cess of contempt by which payment of costs is enforced (s): but, Sir John Leach, V. C., has since force payment of taxed costs? decided, that, the writ is not applicable to such a demand (t). If the present writer may, without presumption, venture to state his view of a case upon which such high authorities are at variance, the question seems to be, whether the costs of proceedings in Equity do, or do not, when taxed (u), constitute a debt; and, if they do, whether the debt is, or is not, recoverable in Equity only (v)? If it be established affirmatively, that, costs when taxed, constitute a debt; and that, costs of a suit in Equity ought to be recovered only by process of that Court by which they have been decreed;

aid of process of

(q) Sedgwick v. Walkins, 1 Ves. Junr. 49.

(r) Shaftoe v. Shaftoe, 7 Ves. 171.

- (s) Stewart v. Stewart, 1 Ba. & Beat. 73.
- (t) Goodman v. Sayers, 5 Mad. 471.
 - (u) Ex parte Sneaps, cited

in Ex parte Hill, 11 Ves. 650. (v) In re Dillon, 2 Sch. & Lef. 110; Ex parte Bellot, 4 Mad. 379: but see a qualification hinted at, when the party has made himself liable by special agreement, Hartop v. Juckes, 2 Mau. & Sel. 440.

ly form part of the sum for which the writ is marked. but the amount must be ascertained:

for the writ will not issue in prevention of anticievery case.

The writ may be obtained before bill filed;

not (in many cases ought not) to pray the writ, when it is first filed.

there seems—(it is stated with great submission) no very evident reason, why a certain equitable debt, so ascertained, should be a less proper subject for this jurisdiction than a debt differently Costs frequent- created. And there are numerous instances in which costs have constituted part of the sum for which a writ of ne exeat has been marked (w). Though, to be sure, where no debt can be sworn to, and damages only, of uncertain amount, are to be recovered, by a future suit, at Law or in Equity, such a demand will afford no reason for issuing the writ (x): since it is much too general a ground to take in support of such a proceeding, that the pated injustice in Court of Chancery will in every case interfere to prevent injustice (y).

Lord Talbot, C., was of opinion, very strongly. that a ne exeat should never be granted without a bill in Equity first filed (z); but, both previously and subsequently, this has been held unnecessaand the bill need ry (a); and, it certainly is not required, that, when a bill is first filed, it should pray this writ. was not at that time known, that, the defendant intended to leave the kingdom, for instance, it would have been highly improper then to pray the writ; and it would be an extraordinary exercise of jurisdiction to refuse it, because not asked for in a stage of proceedings when there was no pretence

> (w) Shaftoe v. Shaftoe, 7 Ves. 171; Dawson v. Dawson, ibid. 178; Oldham v. Oldham, ibid. 410.

Ves. 592.

for

⁽x) Flack v. Holm, 1 Jac. & Walk. 407.

⁽y) Gardiner v. Edwards, 5

⁽z) Ex parte Brunker, SP. Wms. 312.

⁽a) Lloyd v. Cardy, Prec. in Cha. 171; Roddam v. Hetherington, 5 Ves. 92.

for praying it (b). The defendant's own admis- Defendant's adsions, by his answer, would clearly be as safe a supply want of ground for granting the writ as any affidavit of affidavit by the facts (c); but, on the other hand, the defendant's effect of defendanswer, or affidavits, may also be read to oppose an application for the writ (d). And, though a defendant's own admissions might afford a full justification for issuing the process; yet, when it has been previously granted on other, and insufficient, grounds, the defendant's subsequent statement will not sustain the writ. For, the ground on which the writ issued must always be stated in the body issued must be of it; and if it, thereby, appear to have issued im- correctly stated in the body of it; properly, it ought to be discharged (e). It does or it will be discharged. not, however, follow, that, the plaintiff may not renew his application, on the new cause shewn.

If a man has once been arrested and kept in custody, as if the demand against him were a legal be held to equitone, and is discharged; he cannot be held to able bail: and where a writ of equitable bail: the proper regard due to personal ne exeat is grantliberty makes it necessary, that, a plaintiff should he is exempted be sure what he is about before he commences arrest, in respect proceedings: where, by mistake, he first arrests the of the same demand. defendant, and is compelled to discharge him, the writ of ne exeat will not be subsequently issued, in respect of the same demand (f): as at Law a

> 373; Hyde v. Whitfield, 19 Ves. 345.

party

(e) Hyde v. Whitfield, ubi suprà.

(f) Amsinck v. Barclay, 8 Ves. 598; Raynes v. Wyse, 2 Meriv. 473.

missions may ant's answer.

The ground on which the writ

A party once arrested cannot ed against a man, from subsequent

(b) Collinson's case, 18 Ves.

(c) Roddam v. Hetherington,

354.

5 Ves. 95.

⁽d) Flack v. Holm, 1 Jac. & Walk. 415; De Carriere v. De Calonne, 4 Ves. 584; Dick

v. Swinton, 1 Ves. & Bea.

party against whom this process had been executed, would be discharged from any subsequent arrest(g).

The writ issued on behalf of a lunatic.

بنتره مرجوري

Not against a feme coverte as executrix; unless she possess separate property.

Foreigners; subiects domiciled in our colonies; in Scotland; and, it seems, in jurisdiction, are amenable to this process.

٠. . . .

The writ may be obtained on behalf of a lunatic, upon the oath of his committee (h): though it is now settled, (overruling old decisions to the contrary), that a ne exeat ought not to issue against a married woman who is administratrix: for as such she can have no separate property. But, the case might be different with respect to a married woman having separate property (i).

Although this writ was, originally, applied only to restrain parties domiciled here, from leaving the country; yet it has long been extended to Ireland; if they come within the persons who are only temporary visitors for a particular purpose: for the writ is now looked upon only as a civil process to hold a party to bail for an equitable debt; under the same circumstances in which, if the debt were a legal one, he might be held to bail at Law (j). Foreigners, therefore, who come within the jurisdiction (k); persons domiciled in the colonies; in Scotland; or, it seems, in Ireland (l); (though as to the last description of defendants it may be doubted (m),) are all amenable to this process.

Where

- (g) Flack v. Holm, 1 Jac. & Walk. 415; Franklyn v. Thomas, 3 Meriv. 233.
- (h) Stewart v. Graham, 19 Ves. 316.
- (i) Pannell v. Taylor, 1 Turn. & Rus. 103.
- (j) Flack v. Holm, 1 Jac. & Walk. 416.
- (k) S. C. ibid. but the jurisdiction will be exercised, in such cases, with peculiar caution: see De Carriere v. De Calonne, 4 Ves. 591; Whitehead v. Murat, Bunb. 183.
- (l) Howden v. Rogers, 1 Ves. & Bea. 133.
- (m) Bernal v. Marquis of Donegal, 11 Ves. 43.

Where there appears to have been needless delay in applying for the writ, it will deserve, and delay in applyreceive, the consideration of the Court, whether ing for this writ, or vexation apthe proceeding is vexatious; and whether the pears, favorable terms will be plaintiff's laches may not render it reasonable to granted to the give the defendant relief, upon terms less strict than might otherwise have been imposed (n). as, in every case, payment into Court of the amount ment of the moclaimed, must be the best security for the plain-ney into Court; or putting in aptiff's demand, where this is done, the writ will be proved security for such payment; discharged (o); as it will, generally, where security, approved by the Master, is put in (p). where it appears, that, besides money payments, acts as the Court there will be other acts which the Court must necessarily, at the hearing, direct the defendant to perform; as, for instance, to deliver up deeds, &c. there, the writ will not be discharged on giving security for, or even depositing the amount of the pecuniary demand; the defendant must, also, give security to perform the whole decree (q).

Where there has been needless

The writ discharged on pay-

But, and for performance of such other shall direct.

- (n) Dick v. Swinton, 1 Ves. & Bea. 373.
- (o) Stewart v. Graham, 19 Ves. 314.
 - (p) Dick v. Swinton, ubi su-

prà; Atkinson v. Leonard, 3 Br. 223.

(q) Atkinson v. Bedel, 1 Dick. 98; Howden v. Rogers, 1 Ves. & Bea. 133; Roddam v. Hetherington, 5 Ves. 95.

CHAPTER IV.

Fraudulent perversion of privilege by Members of either House of Parliament: and Frauds affecting such parties generally, whether as actors or sufferers.

The Legisla-ture, in order to prevent Parliamentary priviconverted into a shield for fraud.

UNWORTHY individuals having, in some instances, perverted those Parliamentary privileges, leges from being which have been assigned to them for the public good, into a fraudulent protection of their private interests, and an obstruction of justice; the Legislature, without compromising that personal freedom of all its members, which is essential to every deliberative assembly, has, by several enactments, cautiously provided, that such proper and necessary exemption from the ordinary course of juridical proceedings, should not be employed as an impregnable shield for fraud.

has made enactments for the special purpose of obviating difficulties in proceeding against insolvent members of Parliament: and also to prevent delay in entering appearances for such parties.

Thus the statutes of the 4 Geo. 3, c. 33, and of the 45 Geo. 3, c. 124, were enacted for the special purpose of obviating the inconveniences which might previously have arisen, when parties entitled to privilege of Parliament became insolvent; and also, to prevent delay in entering appearances for such parties, when actions, or suits in Equity, are brought against them (a): and these statutes have

(a) Read v. Philips, 16 Ves. 436.

have been repealed in part, only for the purpose, as we shall see, of consolidating them in the recent general bankrupt act (b).

By the 5th and 6th sections of the statute, 45 Geo. 3, c. 124, (which sections are unrepealed), it is of Parliament, enacted, that, when any defendant having privilege of Parliament, shall have appeared to any bill filed against him, seeking a discovery upon oath; or when an appearance shall have been entered for such defendant, according to the provisions of the fourth section of this act; and such person shall neglect to put in refuse or neglect to put in his answer to such bill in due time, to a due time; a Court of Equity may make an order him; a Court of that such bill shall be taken pro confesso, unless Equity may or-der such bill to the defendant shall, within eight days after being betaken pro conserved with such order, shew good cause to the contrary.

having privilege

In the exposition of the 5th section of this and, it seems, the statute, it has been held, (though the report of confined to bills one case throws some doubt upon the subject (c), of discovery; but extends to bills that the remedy given by it is not confined to bills praying relief. of discovery only, but extends, as seems reasonable, to bills praying relief (d).

By the 7th section of the same statute, (the substance of which now forms the 11th section of the ment of money, consolidated bankrupt act (e),) it is enacted, that, shall have been pronounced by when any decree, or order, shall have been pro- any Court of Equity, against nounced, in any cause depending in the high Court any person withof Chancery, or in the Court of Exchequer, or any of the bankrupt

If a decree, or order, for payin the description order

⁽b) Stat. 5 Geo. 4, c. 98.

⁽d) Logan v. Grant, 1 Mad.

⁽c) Jones v. Davis, 17 Ves. 626.

^{368.}

⁽e) Stat. 5 Geo. 4, c. 98.

laws, but having order shall have been made in any matter of bankprivilege of Parorder, though duly served, is not obeyed;

liament; and such ruptcy, or of lunacy, against any person within the description of the statutes relating to bankrupts. but having privilege of Parliament, thereby ordering such person to pay any sum of money to any other person, or into the Bank, in the name of the Accountant General of the Court of Chancery, in trust; or to the proper officer (f) of the Court of Exchequer, in trust, if the cause is depending in that Court; then, if the party, having privilege of Parliament, shall disobey such order, the same having been duly served, the Court by which such decree. or order, shall have been pronounced, may fix a perax a peremptory day for the payment of such money; and if such party, being within the description of the statutes relating to bankrupts, but having privilege of Parliament, being served with such order eight days before the day therein appointed for the payment of such money, shall neglect, or omit, to pay the same; then such person shall be deemed a bankrupt from the time of the service of such last mentioned peremptory order; and any creditor may sue out a commission against such person, and proceed thereon in like manner as against other bankrupts.

the Court may fix a peremptory of the money; and if the party, being duly served with notice, neglect to pay the money, he is to be deemed a bankrupt; and any creditor may proceed against liim as against any other bankrupt.

And if such privileged person, within one month after a summons sued

By the statute of 4 Geo. 3, c. 33, before mentioned, (which statute is repealed only to be incorporated in the general bankrupt act, of which it

forms

(f) In the statute 45 Geo. 3, c. 124, the Deputy Remembrancer is named; but by the stat. 1 Geo. 4, c. 35, an Ac-

countant General is appointed, who is to keep the accounts of all monies held in trust for the suitors of the Court of Exchequer.

forms the 10th section,) the creditors of any per- out against him son having privilege of Parliament, but coming pay, secure, or within the description of the laws relating to compound, the debt; or give bankrupts, may, upon an affidavit made of the sureties, to pay debt, and filed, sue out a summons, or original bill such sum as shall be recovered and summons, against such debtor; who, unless against him; he within two months he pays, secures, or compounds within the defor the debt, to the satisfaction of the creditor; scription of the creditor; bankrupt laws, or enters into a bond, in such sum, and with two be adjudged a bankrupt: such sufficient sureties as one of the judges of the Court out of which such process may issue shall approve, to pay such sum as shall be recovered in such action, shall be adjudged a bankrupt from the time of the service of such summons. And and any express by the third section of the same statute of 4 Geo. act or bankrupt. cy, committed by 3, (now forming the 9th section of the consolidat-a member of Parliament, authorised bankrupt act,) it is enacted, that, if any trader es the like proshall commit an express act of bankruptcy, any of him as against his creditors may sue out a commission of bank-rupt. rupt against him, under which commission he may be proceeded against in like manner as any other bankrupt; and privilege of Parliament to the contrary notwithstanding; except that such person shall not be subject to be imprisoned or arrested, during the time of such privilege, unless in cases of felony.

For the preservation of the dignity and independence of Parliament, it is enacted, by the statute of Commons be de-52 Geo. 3, c. 144, that, whenever a member of the clared bankrupt, his right of voting House of Commons shall be duly declared a bank- in that House rupt, his right of sitting and voting in the said ed for twelve House of Commons shall be suspended for twelve within that time, months, unless within that period the said com- the commission be superseded, or

for debt, do not will, if he come scription of the

act of bankrupt. ceedings against

If a member of will be suspend-

mission

the creditors satisfied their full debts:

or unless such bankrupt give bond, with two sureties, to pay the same, if recovered against him.

And such mem- satisfied. ber's seat will be vacated, unless the commission be superseded within twelve ' months after it issued.

A member of the House of Commons must be served with an office copy of any bill filed against him, together with a subpæna; if he pear, a sequestration will issue: if such a privileged person abscoud, a bill against him may

mission shall be superseded; or unless the creditors shall be paid, or satisfied, their full debts: provided, that any disputed debts, which such bankrupt shall enter in a bond, or bonds, with sufficient sureties, to pay, if they are by any proceeding in Law or Equity recovered against him, shall, for the purposes of this act, be considered as paid or And, by the second section of the said statute, it is further enacted, that, if any commission of bankrupt, duly awarded against a member of the Commons' House of Parliament, shall not, within twelve months from the issuing thereof, be superseded, the commissioners shall certify the fact to the Speaker of the House of Commons, and thereupon the election of such member shall be held void, and his seat vacated.

When a bill in Equity is filed against a member of the House of Commons, he must be served with an office copy thereof, signed, together with a subpæna, after which, if he refuse, or neglect, to appear, he may be proceeded against by sequesthen refuse to ap- tration (g): which will not be discharged, till he has appeared, and paid the costs of the process (h).

And if a person having privilege of Parliament abscond, with a fraudulent design to elude justice, be taken pro con- he may be proceeded against as any other individual; and the plaintiff's bill, as against such absconding party, may be taken pro confesso, under the statute of 5 Geo. 2, c. 25, which act contains no exceptions in favor of such privileged persons.

The mode of

The mode of proceeding against defendants having

⁽g) 1 Harr. Ch. Pr. 111, edit. Newland.

ing privilege of Peerage, to compel them to put in compelling Peers answers to bills in Equity filed against them, is the toput in answers, is the same as same as that pursued, for the like purpose, against that pursued with respect to memmembers of the Commons' House of Parliament; bers of the House with this distinction, that, against Peers, spiritual cept that the or temporal, the writ of subpæna is not issued in the is not issued in first instance; but a letter missive is directed to the first instance, but a letter misany such defendant, requesting him, or her, to or- sive is directed: der an appearance to be entered on his, or her, be-This mark of respect, however, is a mere upon which, compliment: or rather, it is not process upon cess of contempt which proceedings for a contempt can be founded; a subpana must if the defendant fail to appear in due time after ser- be awarded before sequestravice of the letter missive, a subpæna must be tion: awarded before the Court can proceed to sequestration (i). The letter missive is, however, not but the letter altogether inoperative in the plaintiff's behalf; missive will give the plaintiff's for it gives his suit priority, and entitles him to suit priority, if a cross bill be receive the first answer, in case the defendant filed. should file a cross-bill, after the service of such letter missive (i).

By an order of the House of Lords, dated 22nd May, 1732, it was declared to be the inherent right ment, answer, of all Peers, or Lords of Parliament, to answer, and are examined on interrogaor be examined on interrogatories, in all Courts, tories, in all upon protestation of honor only; and not on the testation of honcommon oath. This privilege, whilst it is a lofty, or only; and not on the common but not unbecoming, assertion of the claims of high oath. rank to equally elevated notions of honor; can hardly be considered, even by the most jealous pa-

of Commons; ex-

however, no pro-

Courts, upon pro-

triot.

⁽i) Hinde's Ch. Pr. 81.

⁽j) Price v. Lord Coningsby. Bunb. 123.

triot, as weakening, in any material degree, the security which their humbler fellow-subjects enjoy in dealings with patrician parties. If a nobleman could so far forget himself as to falsify his word, his oath would offer but a feeble additional guaranty.

A plaintiff at Law will not be allowed to avail himself of those means of delay which privilege of Parliament may afford him, as to putting in an answer to a bill for relief against the action.

If a person having privilege of Parliament bring an action, and the defendant at Law file a bill in Equity for relief against that action, an injunction will be granted, restraining proceedings at Law, till answer, or further order (k): otherwise the plaintiff at Law, by fraudulently availing himself of the means of delay in putting in his answer. which his privilege, to a certain extent, affords him, might obtain judgment against a party who had a clear equitable defence.

If exceptions be taken to a Peer's answer, obtain an order for time, to put in a better anthat, if the answer be not put in by the time limited, a sequesthis means a selute:

Where a Peer has put in an answer to a bill in Equity, and exceptions have been taken, which and the Peer, to have been submitted to; should the defendant apply for an order for time to put in a better answer, undertake, swer; and, in order to entitle himself to the indulgence, enter an appearance with the Register, together with an undertaking, that, if the answer tration shall go; should not be put in, by the time limited, a sequesquestration abso- tration shall go; this undertaking, upon a sound construction of Lord Rosslyn's General Order (1), will be understood to mean, a sequestration absolute; which process will, accordingly, issue forthwith (m). But where a sequestration nisi for not answering, has been granted against a Peer, if, before

but if, after sequestration nisi, an insufficient

(k) Anonym. 1 Vern. 329.

(m) Gregor v. Lord Arundel, 8 Ves. 88; Portier v. De la

(l) Dated 23rd. Jan. 1794. See Bea. Ord. in Cha. 455.

Cour, ibid. 603.

fore the order is made absolute, an insufficient an- answer be put swer be put in, this, it has been held, is good cause it has been said, against such order nisi; and when that answer is re- must move anew for a sequestraported insufficient, the plaintiff must commence en-tion nisi: tirely de novo, and move for a sequestration nisi (n).

in, the plaintiff,

This latter rule, however, can only hold where if the defendant has not come

the defendant has not come into terms, and given into terms; an undertaking that a sequestration should go. Lord Hardwicke thought, that, when an order nisi, but Lord Hardhad been made for a sequestration against a member wicke held, that, of the House of Commons, for want of an answer; would be, to enthe proper medium would be, in case he put in an till it was seen answer to which exceptions were taken, but not swer was suffisubmitted to, to enlarge the time for shewing cause, until it appeared whether the answer was sufficient or not (o). The three last cited decisions for, the general together. rule is, that, an are not irreconcilable, but may all stand together; rule 18, that, an insufficient anthough Clifford's case is the most questionable; swer is no answer. if it be admitted doctrine, that, an insufficient

whether the ancient, or not:

If an officer of any Court, of Law or Equity, violate the privilege of Parliament by an arrest; the privilege of Parliament by an though he may have acted under a mistaken im- arrest, he must pression, that, he was only doing a perfectly le-indemnify the gal act; he must indemnify the party against all expenses occasioned by such arrest (q).

If an officer of

A writ of ne exeat regno, to restrain a member of Parliament from going to Ireland, was refused a member of Par-

A writ of ne liament from goby ing to Ireland,

(n) Lord Clifford's case, 2 P. Wms. 385.

answer is no answer (p).

- (o) Butler v. Rashfield, 3 Atk. 789.
- (p) Attorney General v. Young, 3 Ves. 209; Davis v. Davis, 2 Atk. 24.
- (q) Anonym. cited in 18 Ves.

though such writs have is sned.

has been refused: by Lord Eldon (7); though his Lordship, in a subsequent case (s), said, he believed such writs had issued: possibly, in those instances, the parties against whom the preventive remedy was sought had not privilege of Parliament.

The journals of the House of gratuitously to each Peer, are heir-looms.

It seems, that, the journals of the House of Lords, delivered Lords, which are delivered gratuitously to each Peer, are heir-looms descending with the title; and cannot be retained by the deceased Peer's personal representatives (t).

If an information be filed to obtain payment of notes, given colorably to public uses, the relators cannot bill, alleging, that, the notes were, in fact. given to obtain a corrupt return of members to the House of Commons:

If, with a corrupt view to influence the return of representatives to the House of Commons, promissory notes are given; but a colorable consideration be expressed, that, the money is given to pubdemur to a cross- lie uses; should payment of the notes he refused, and an information be filed to obtain such payment; whereupon a cross-bill is brought against the relators, for a discovery of the real consideration of those notes: the relators, who introduced the question to the Court, cannot demur to the crossbill: nor can they have any benefit from the information, if they will not give a discovery; though such discovery might subject them to a penalty(u).

but a demurrer will be allowed to a bill filed to recover the exwhich petition

If a Peer, seeking to establish an unconstitutional influence in a Borough, induce solicitors, by penses of a peti- a promise of indomination to the House of Commons, with a view to a promise of indemnification, to present a petiagainst a return; get his favored candidate seated there; but he subsequently

- (r) Bernal v. Marquis of Donegal, 11 Ves. 48.
- (s) Howden v. Rogers, 1 Ves. & Bea. 133.
- (t) Upton v. Lord Ferrers, 5 Ves. 806.
- (u) Wildbore v. Parker, Mosely, 126.

subsequently refuses to pay the charges so incur- the plaintiff alred: should the solicitors file a bill of discovery, in duced to preorder to obtain evidence that they were so employ- sent by the defendant's proed, for the purposes aforesaid; a demurrer will be mises to bear the allowed: for, in the first place, the discovery would be useless; since, if all the facts were proved, as stated, the plaintiff would, in an action at Law, be inevitably nonsuited. But, a still stronger ground for supporting the demurrer exists; if the discovery could be material, the case is one to which a Court of conscience would for a Court of certainly give no assistance: the engagement is, Conscience will professedly, made between two parties, to the in-nance to an jury and oppression of a third;—the candidate founded on against whose return the petition was presented. This is maintenance; and it is impossible to sustain a bill for discovery, the effect of which, if allowed, would be to bring out a case of maintenance (w).

leges he was inexpenses:

agreement so

If judgment creditors of a member of the House of Commons, who have sued out elegits, bring a will not hold to a bill in Equity bill in Equity for a discovery of their debtor's free-brought by a hold estates, charging, that, the defendant upon or of a member taking his seat as member of Parliament, gave in Commons, for a his qualification, as by Law is required, previously discovery of his debtor's real to the said judgments; and, that, if the estates estates; constituting such qualification have been since conveyed away, it was without consideration, and in trust for himself: should the defendant meet

A demurrer judgment credit-

the

(w) Wallis v. Duke of Portor of London v. Ainsley, 1 land, 3 Ves. 502; Oliver v. Anstr. 158. Haywood, 1 Anstr. 82; Mayed, by answer, cation was not liable to executher copyhold, or a rent-charge; no further answer will be required.

a colorable qualification for a seat

and when such

the case, as to his qualification and fraudulent alienation, by demurer, which mode of defence admits the facts to be true, the demurrer must be but if it be stat- overruled: but if he had, by answer, said, that, that, the qualification the property which he gave into the House of Commons was not liable to execution, as being tion, as being ei- either copyhold, or a rent charge, the Court would not have required a further answer (x).

If a deed, conveying a colorable qualification sequences, when to sit in Parliament, or for any other purpose contrary to the policy of the Law, be complete, the in Parliament has been made use of; party executing it cannot be heard to allege his own fraudulent purpose, in order to confine the operation of his deed within the limits of his intended fraud (y). But where a qualification was givqualification has never been used, en, to enable a person to take a seat in the House of Commons, who never became a candidate; as no fraud was actually committed upon the policy of the Law, the grantee was restrained from sueing upon the deed: it having been executed for a particular purpose, which never took effect (x).

⁽x) Mountford v. Taylor, 6 Ves. 792.

⁽y) Cecil v. Butcher, 2 Jac. & Walk. 572; Curtis v. Perry, 6 Ves. 747; Birch v. Blagrave, Ambl. 266: and see the head

of "Settlement and Conveyance."

⁽z) Platamore v. Staple, Cooper, 253; Stratford v. Powell, 1 Ba. & Bea. 21; Roberts v. Roberts, 2 Barn. & Ald. 369.

CHAPTER V.

Frauds in which Agents, Stewards, Brokers, Factors, or Receivers, are concerned.

THE conduct of persons entrusted, confidentially, with the management of property, is, upon obvious principles, liable to strict, and even severe, scrutiny in Equity. Thus, if an agent, though acting gratuitously (a), and solely with a view to and meaning fairthe interest (as he conceives it) of his principal, ex- ly, responsible for any excess of his ceed his commission; he makes himself liable for commission; all the consequences. But, though such excess of unless his princiauthority is, in the first instance, at the risk of the quent approbaagent; the principal, by subsequent approbation, act: adopts his agent's act, and takes the hazard upon himself (b). And this approbation will be infer- when this approred, whenever the principal avails himself of any can be inferred advantage to be derived from the transaction (c): as to part, it will be understood to for he will not be permitted to avow his agent's ne- apply to the gotiation as to part, and disavow it as to the rest (d). So, if an agent, factor, or receiver, trans-

tion, adopts the

And an agent

Freem. 48.

(d) Cornwall v. Wilson, 1 Ves. Sen. 510; Billon v. Hyde, 1 Atk. 128; Wilson v. Poulter, 2 Str. 861.

⁽a) Charitable Corporation

v. Sutton, 2 Atk. 406; Massey

v. Banner, 1 Jac. & Walk. 247.

⁽b) Smith v. Cologan, in note to 2 T. R. 189.

⁽c) Clarke v. Perrier, 2

siness in the usual manner, not answerable for any loss; unless fraud be shewn.

But, a severe scrutiny exercised when a fair suspicion exists, that an agent has taken improper advantage of his ation.

Subject to jealous examination, au open purchase by an agent from his principal may, in some eases, be support-

but, there must be no delusion, by setting up a nominal vendee, when the agent is the real purchaser.

who transacts bu act business for his employers in the regular and usual manner; notwithstanding it may appear. that, under the circumstances, a more advantageous course might have been pursued, yet, if no fraud appear, the agent will not be answerable for any loss sustained (e) But, whenever a fair, reasonable, judicial, doubt exists, whether a party has not availed himself of the opportunities of a confidential situation, in order to obtain some selfish confidential situ- advantage; it would be too dangerous, considering the relation between the parties, to allow a transaction of that suspicious nature to stand (f).

An agent, subject to a strict and jealous investigation of the transaction in Equity, may, as it has been held in modern cases, buy from his principal; if the latter, being fully informed who is the proposed purchaser, and, labouring under no influence or deception, is willing to sell to him(g): but it cannot be suffered, that an agent should contract clandestinely, setting up a nominal vendee, and dealing with his own employers in the name of that person. The employers are, thus, thrown off their guard; they are led to suppose they have an agent acting solely with a view to their interest; endeavouring to get the best price for them: while, in fact, the agent is contracting with himself; and fixing the price which he is him-

(e) Knight v. Earl of Plymouth, 1 Dick. 125; Belchier v. Parsons, 1 Keny. Rep. 47: see Wren v. Kirton, 11 Ves. 381; Massey v. Banner, 1 Jac. & Walk. 247; and post, p. 158.

(f) Lady Ormond v. Hutch-

inson, 16 Vcs. 107; Huguenin v. Baseley, 14 Ves. 299; Oliver v. Court, 8 Price, 161, 164.

(g) Morse v. Royal, 12 Ves. 373; Gibson v. Jeyes, 6 Ves.

self to pay. To call this a contract, indeed, would be an abuse of terms; it is, in Equity, a mere nullity: to a contract there must be two parties (h). Lord Thurlow, seems, even, to have been clearly of opinion, that, a person employed to sell could mit a person emnot, under any circumstances, possibly be permitted to buy: that, the principle must prevail, even chaser, under any circumstances. if he bought fairly: and that, such a purchase could not be supported, although it was made with the knowledge of the party selling (i). as an agent cannot, at any rate, purchase from his the seller of aremployer except under the restrictions above spe-ticles which he is employed to cified; so, it would be equally opening a door to purchase: "monstrous fraud," to use Lord Rosslyn's strongly expressive language, if an agent were allowed to be himself the seller of articles, which he was employed to procure for his principal. est evidence of consent would be necessary to support such a transaction (k).

Lord Thurlow

not be himself

Upon these principles, it has been decided, that, for no man must if a person make himself really a principal, in principal in those those very transactions in which he is, ostensibly, transactions in which he ostenconcerned as a broker; he can maintain no suit sibly acts as either at Law or in Equity in respect of those transactions: a broker is the agent of the buyer, or seller, or both; bound to exercise his skill in favor of those who, for that sole purpose, have confidentially employed him: but if he were allowed to introduce himself as a principal, his duty

(k) Massey v. Davies, 2 Ves.

⁽h) Woodhouse v. Meredith. 1 Jac. & Walk, 222.

Jun. 321; Attorney General v.

⁽i) Crowe v. Ballard, 3 Br. Cochrane, Wightw. 14. 120.

and his interest would be set in decided opposition (l).

Where an agent, employed to sell, has purchased for himself, and is dead; his estate will be liable to account for the full value of the purchased property; for this is not such a tort as dies with the person:

And not only where an agent, employed to sell estates, becomes himself the purchaser, (whether in his own name, or that of another.) will Equity charge him with the actual value of the estates: but, also, whenever such agent has, from partial or corrupt motives, let part of his employer's estate at a less rent than he could have obtained from a responsible tenant; the agent's estate must, though he be dead, make good the loss sustained. though, at common Law, an action sounding in damages dies with the person; the ground of jurisdiction in Equity is, that, in such case, it is debt (m): and, hard as it may be upon persons who succeed to property liable to demands of this nature, that the fraud was not discovered till after the death of the party implicated in it; yet there is a fixed principle which, in general cases, authorizes a Court of Equity to say, that, there can be no period, however remote, through which the Court will not look for the purpose of setting right a steward's accounts (n).

and no lapse of time, alone, will prevent a Court of Equity from setting right a steward's accounts.

An agent's accounts should be always ready; and he cannot privilege the books in which they are entered, by inserting therein distinct matters.

An agent cannot privilege the books in which his accounts as agent are kept, by inserting in them entries on other subjects; the parts which do not concern his principal he may seal up, pledging himself, on oath, that he has sealed up those parts

(l) Lowther v. Lowther, 13 Ves. 103; Wren v. Kirton, 8 Ves. 502; Ex parte Dyster, in re Moline, 1 Meriv. 172; S. C. 2 Rose, 355: and see infrà, p. 157.

- (m) Lord Hardwicke v. Vernon, 4 Ves. 416, 418: see post, p. 156.
- (n) Earl of Hardwicke v. Vernon, 14 Vez. 511; Middleditch v. Sharland, 5 Vez. 91.

parts only: but where the books are not proved to be in daily use, in the course of general trade, the of accounts. principal will not be put to the inconvenience of attending at the residence of the agent, for the purpose of examining those accounts, which the latter ought to be prepared with; the proper order is, that, the agent shall leave with his clerk in Court his books of accounts and vouchers relative to the matters in question, and that the principal, his clerk in Court, or solicitor, shall be at liberty to inspect, and take copies of the same; but that the agent shall be permitted to seal up, on oath, such parts of the said books, &c., as do not in any way relate to the affairs of his principal (o).

To have his accounts always ready and clear, is the very first duty of an agent, receiver, or other accounting party (p): and this not only by having vouchers ready for his payments, but, also, by be-payments, and reing prepared, as his employers have a right to ex-ceipts, must be pect, with accounts of his receipts (q).

If receivers neglect to pay in their balances regularly, they will be charged with interest; whether they have made any, or not (r): or they may be proceeded against personally, by commitment (s). As a general principle, a person who accepts the office of trustee engages to do the whole duty of receiver, without emolument. If, however, the appointment

(o) Gerard v. Penswick, 1 Swanst. 535.

(p) Pearse v. Green, 1 Jac. & Walk. 140; Lord Chedworth v. Edwards, 8 Ves. 49; Morgan v. Lewes, 4 Dow, 52.

(q) White v. Lady Lincoln, 8

Ves. 369.

(r) Potts v. Leighton, 15 Ves. 273: and see the General Order on this subject, 15 Ves.

(s) Davies v. Cracraft, 14 Ves. 143.

duction of books

Vouchers for alike forthcom-

Rules as to re-

appointment of a receiver become necessary, the

appointed receiver: nor is an infant's next friend a proper person.

Court looks to the trustee to examine, with an adverse eye, whether the receiver does his duty. Trustee rarely The consequence is, the appointment of a trustee to be also receiver is an extremely rare case; and only where he will act without emolument: unless no one else can be procured who is so well able to manage the estate (t). And, as it is the duty of the next friend of an infant suitor to watch the accounts and conduct of the receiver of the rents and profits of the infant's estate; the two characters are, obviously, incompatible, and must not be united; or gross fraud might be practised. The Master to and pass undetected (u). Upon a similar principle, as a receiver is to account to, and be superintended by, the Master to whom the cause is referred, policy and justice require that they should be unconnected; and that the receiver should be proposed by the parties interested, not nominated by the Master; unless the proper parties neglect, for an unreasonable length of time, to propose any one for that office (w).

whom a cause is referred ought not to nominate a receiver.

Members of Parliament not the most eligible receivers:

nor practising barristers.

Members of Parliament are not absolutely disqualified from acting as receivers; but as the process against them, in case of default, is more difficult than against others, they are not so eligible as men of equal substance who are not in Parlia-And as a barrister, in practice, cannot be expected

(t) Sykes v. Hastings, 11 Ves. 364; --- v. Jolland, 8 Ves. 72; Anonym. 3 Ves. 516; Sutton v. Jones, 15 Ves. 588.

(u) Stone v. Wishart, 2 Mad.

64: see, under the proper head, as to receivers of the estates of Lunatics.

(w) Attorney General v. Day, 2 Mad. 256.

expected to give personal attention to the estate; he is not well fitted for the office of receiver; though he might be a most proper auditor (α) . The judgment of the Master, in the selection of a receiver, is never disturbed, except upon very spe-sily disturbed. cial grounds (y); but, still it is not absolutely conclusive (x).

selection not es-

A receiver runs a risk, who lays out money without a previous order of the Court; but when, without order. on reference to the Master, the expenditure is found to have been beneficial to the estate, he may be allowed it in account (a). A receiver may be appointed upon an estate in the East Indies; but, as a receiver in India would be out of reach of the jurisdiction here, some person resident in this country should be the receiver, who may appoint his own agent in India (b).

Expenditure by receivers,

Receiver of an estate in India.

Where an agent has been employed for the purpose of making a sale; the principal may, in all file a bill against cases, file a bill for an account against such as agent, employed to sell, for agent (c): and an agent must account, not only an account, infor property received, but, also, for any interest, or profit, he has made of it (d): unless this has been done with the acquiescence of his principal, duly informed of all the circumstances (e).

The principal may, in all cases,

- (x) Wynne v. Lord Newborough, 15 Ves. 284.
- (y) Tharpe v. Tharpe, 12 Ves. 320; Greuzè v. Bishop of London, 2 Br. 256.
- (2) Wynne v. Lord Newborough, ubi suprà.
- (a) Tempest v. Ord, 2 Meriv. \$6; Blunt v. Clitheroe, 6 Ves. 801.
- (b) -- v. Lindsey, 15 Ves. 91.
- (c) Mackenzie v. Johnston, 4 Mad. 375; Massey v. Banner, 4 Mad. 417.
- (d) Brown v. Litton, 1 P. Wms. 141.
- (e) Beaumont v. Boultbee, 11 Ves. 358; Lord Salisbury v. Wilkinson, cited, 8 Ves. 48.

An agent who has obtained a grant from his employer, improperly, cannot retain it himself, nor can a purwho had notice of the facts: no ratification procured by the agent, whilst his fiduciary situation continues, will avail: for, one fraudulent deed cannot set up another.

If an agent, by an abuse of confidence and misrepresentation, obtain a grant from his employer: such grant will be set aside, not only as against the grantee, but against a purchaser for valuable conchaser from him, sideration from him, if such purchaser had notice of the facts: and although the agent procure, subsequently to the grant, a further conveyance; whilst the fiduciary relation between him and his employer continues to subsist, and the grantor remains in ignorance of his rights; such subsequent transaction is merely a continuation of the fraud,—and not a confirmation; to make it available as such, it must be shewn, that, the grantor knew the transaction, which he was confirming, to be impeachable; and, that, with this knowledge. he freely and spontaneously executed the deed(f); for one fraudulent, or illegal deed cannot set up another (g).

A conveyance obtained by the undue influence of one holding a confidential relation, can, at most, only stand as a security for real demands.

fluence.

(f) Chesterfield v. Jansen,

2 Ves. Senr. 146; Dunbar v.

Tredennick, 2 Ba. & Beat. 314,

So, where a fair inference arises, either of ignorance on the one side as to the extravagant nature of the transactions; or, of undue and overbearing influence on the other part; no conveyances obtained from a weak and distressed party, by a person standing in a confidential relation, can be supported as more, at the utmost, than securities for any balance which may be due on the account be-Laches not im- tween the parties. Nor, (though laches may, puted, whilst a party is under in- sometimes, protect from impeachment transactions, originally of a very questionable nature),

> 317; Murray v. Palmer, 2 Sch. & Lef. 486.

(g) Roche v. O'Brien, 1 Ba. & Beat. 340.

can acquiescence be imputed, so long as the same circumstances of undue influence on one side, and distress on the other, in which the oppression commenced, continue to operate (h). And in considering whether an agent can be allowed the benefit of any voluntary settlement obtained from his agent, Equity will inquire, not employer, before the connexion between them was only if they proabsolutely dissolved; it will be necessary to ascer- free and well untain clearly, not only that such settlement was the the employer's pure, uninfluenced, well understood act of the em-time; but, ployer's mind; and that he executed the instrument with that full knowledge of all its effects, nature, and consequences, which it was the duty of the agent to communicate (i); but a farther also, how that question will be, (not merely whether the party intention was making the settlement knew what he was doing, but) how that intention was produced? with reference to which the pecuniary circumstances and transactions between the parties must be attended to (k). And though old age, alone, will not justify a presumption that the party was imposed up- amords no presumption that on (l); yet it will have some weight, in estimating such a party was imposed upon: the fairness of a gift, to persons in whom the aged but is of some party confided (m).

The property of a principal, entrusted by him to his factor, for any special purpose, belongs to the principal, notwithstanding any change which that property may have undergone in point of form; standing any

In examining ceeded from the derstood acts of mind, at the

Old age, alone, affords no preweight in estimating the fairness of a gift.

A principal may follow property entrusted by him to his factor, notwith-

⁽h) Purcell v. Macnamara, 14 Ves. 106, 121, 122.

⁽i) Harris v. Tremenheere, 18 Ves. 40.

⁽k) Huguenin v. Baseley, 14

Ves. 500.

^{. (}l) Lewis v. Pead, 1 Ves.

Jun. 19.

⁽m) Griffiths v. Robins, 3 Mad. 192.

may have undercan be clearly traced, and distinguished.

change of form it so long as it is capable of being traced, and clearly may have undergone, provided it distinguished from all other property: and property thus circumstanced is equally recoverable from the assignees of the factor, in the event of his becoming a bankrupt, as it would be from the factor himself before his bankruptcy (*). It being well established, then, as a general principle, that, if property in the hands of any agent, in its original state and form was covered with a trust in favor of the principal, no change of that state and form can divest it of such trust: or give the agent, or those who represent him in right, any more valid claim. with reference to it, than they, respectively, had before such change; the only difficulty as to the extent in which this rule is applicable to any particular case, must be a difficulty of fact, not of law. When property For instance, the property may have been converted into specie; and money, according to a quaint. but favorite, phrase, has no "ear mark;" but this can only be predicated of an undivided and undistinguishable mass of current coin: money kept apart from other money, and capable of being distinguished, may be followed specifically into the hands of an agent, or into those of his general And, as against legal representatives (o). And whenever an agent mixes the property of his principal with his own. the whole must (as against the agent), both at Law Court of Equity and in Equity, be taken to be the property of the principal,

may be so distinguished, although it has been converted iuto specie.

an agent who mixes his employer's property with his own, a

> (n) Ex parte Dumas, 2 Ves. Sen. 586; Ex parte Emery, 2 Ves. Sen. 674; Godfrey v. Furzo, S P. Wms. 186: and see further, under the head of

"Trust." See, also, the recent statute of 4 Geo. 4, c. 83, s. 8. (o) Taylor v. Phimer, 3

Mau. & Sel. 574, 975.

principal, until the agent puts the property again may hold the into such a situation that it may be distinguished, to the employer. as satisfactorily as it might have been before that unauthorized mixture. The application of this doctrine, however, is not left to the discretion of the Master in taking the accounts between the parties; but is kept under the direction of the Court, which will, itself, judge whether the case calls for it (p).

Though, in general, mere inadequacy of price, if not so gross as plainly to demonstrate fraud (q), price, if not so will not vitiate a sale (r); yet, if the purchaser be inference of fraud, will not the agent of the vendor, the adequacy of the con-vitiate a sale gesideration will be more jealously scrutinized; such the purchaser be a purchaser must at least shew, with indisputable the agent of the vendor, the transclearness, that, he furnished his employer with all action will be strictly scrutithe knowledge which he himself possessed (s): or nized: which he might, by due diligence, have acquired, as to the value of the subject of sale (t). order to set aside a purchase of an undervalue by an agent from his employer, or by a creditor who takes advantage of the circumstances of his debtor, it is not necessary that fraud, in the broad sense of the word, should be proved; it is enough if that in such a cone. constructive fraud, upon which a Court of Equity constructive fraud will be acts and grants relief, be established (u).

gross as to afford nerally; but, if

If enough to set the sale aside.

- (p) Lupton v. White, 15 Ves. 486, 442; Lord Chedworth v. Edwards, 8 Ves. 50. How far the case is varied if the agent becomes a bankrupt, see the appropriate head of this treatise.
- (q) Darley v. Singleton, Wightwick, 29; M'Namara v. Brown, 2 Ba. & Beat. 8.
- (r) Smyth v. Smyth, 2 Mad. 92; Ord v. Noel, 5 Mad. 440.
- (s) Lowther v. Lowther, 13 Ves. 105.
- (t) Wren v. Kirton, 8 Ves. 502; Ex parte James, 8 Ves.
- (u) Medlicott v. O'Donnell, 1 Ba. & Beat. 165.

pays money, be-longing to his principal, into his own bankinghouse, and to his own account, is safety:

An agent who If an agent, even one acting gratuitously, pay monies, belonging to his principal, into his own banking house, and to his own account; should the bank fail he will be responsible to his princiresponsible for its pal: for, if he himself had become a bankrupt, his assignees would have taken the debt appearing to be due to him from the bankers; and if he had died insolvent, the money would have been part of his assets: as his estate, therefore, might, under these circumstances, have had all the benefit of the property; he will, on the other hand, be compelled to make good any loss sustained in consequence of his having chosen to make such a disposition of the money: the case will, of course, be still stronger, when he has been receiving interest upon the upon the deposit deposit. This would be a plain fraud, if he omitted to furnish his principal with explicit particulars, enabling him to call for his fair proportion of interest (w).

more especially when he has been receiving interest so made.

" If an agent, by misrepresentation, induce his employer to grant a lease upon very inadequate terms, the lesse though the lessee may have been guilty of no

has been collu-

If a lease be obtained from the steward, or other agent, of the lessor, by means of any misrepresentation, whereby the lessee (even innocently on his part), gains any advantage over the lessor; the cannot stand, al- lease cannot stand: and if it be proved that the agent was conusant of the real facts, he will be angunty of no fraudon his part: swerable to his principal for any loss, sustained in consequence of the concealment of that which it was his duty to have communicated to his employand where there er (x). So, if a stranger enter into a fraudulent sion, in fraud of bargain with a servant, acting on behalf of his master:

> (w) Massey v. Banner, 1 ler, 1 Ves. Junr. 208: see ante Jac. & Walk. 248, 250. p. 148.

(x) Lord Abingdon v. But-

ter; or if a servant, by collusion, take greater a principal, an acprofits than belong to his office; in either case, an cannot be reaccount of the gains made by such fraud cannot be sisted. resisted (y). And, when a factor, instead of charging factorage upon purchases made for his em- charges merca ployers, deals with them as a merchant, and stead of factorage, his employcharges mercantile profits; that is a fraud, upon ers may compel him to account, which a Court of Equity will decree an account: in Equity. or, if such factor, or broker, be also a manufacturer, though he might, by a rigid adverse bargain, demand what price he thought fit for his goods; yet if, by taking advantage of his character of factor, or broker, and of the confidence reposed in him as such, he obtain a price he ought not to have had; that, also, is good ground for an account (z).

count, at his suit.

When a factor charges mercan-

When an agent, known to be acting as such, When a known gives an order on account of the concern of which agent gives or account he has the management, he thereby incurs no per- of a concern of which he has the sonal responsibility: and if, in payment for the management, the articles supplied by his order, he hand over a bill responsible for of exchange, which turns out to be mere waste paper; the creditor, unless he has purchased the bill out and out, has a right to resort to his original debt, against the principal for whose use the articles in question were furnished (a).

A charge by a bill-broker in the country for commission, if made bona fide, and not colorably, with a view to evade the statute, is not usurious (b).

principal alone is

A bill-broker in the country may charge commissiou.

⁽y) East India Company v. Henchman, 1 Ves. Junr. 289.

⁽z) East India Company v. Keighley, 4 Mad. 35: and see suprà, p. 148.

⁽a) Tempest v. Ord, 1 Mad.

⁽b) Ex parte Henson, 1 Mad. 115; Baynes v. Fry, 15 Ves.

s principal to his voked, at any time before the into a binding ecute it, in favor

A mandate from a principal to his agent, can agent may be re- give no right or interest to a third person in the subject of such mandate. It may be revoked at agenthas entered any time before it is executed; or, at least, before agreement to ex- any engagement is entered into with a third perof a third person, son to execute it for his benefit. And it will be revoked by any disposition of the property inconsistent with its execution (c).

Reasonable care. alone, is to be required from agents;

but where their culpable negligence has led to ultimate loss, they must make the proximate cause of loss may have been out of their control.

Agents who have used reasonable care with respect to their employers' goods, are not responsible for any inevitable accidents, by which they may be destroyed, or injured (d): but, no one intrusted with another's property can claim to be exempted from responsibility for its destruction, it good; although merely from the circumstance, that, the loss has ultimately happened by means which could not be controlled. Though the loss happen by fire, lightning, or other similar accident, that will be no excuse, if the agent appear to have been guilty of previous negligence, which led to, though it was not the direct and immediate cause of such loss(e).

A factor who charges his employer with premium of insurance, though none is made, must himself an-

ed an order to

If an order be sent by a principal to a factor to make an insurance, and the principal is charged, in account, as if it were made; the factor, though he never, in fact, made that insurance, is, in Equiswer as insurer: ty, considered as the insurer himself (f). And as he must, if, af. where a merchant here has, in the usual course of terhe has accept-ad an order to business, accepted an order from a foreign correspondent

> (c) Scott v. Porcher, 3 Mer. 664.

(d) Co. Litt. 89, a. Anonym. 2 Mad. 100: and see, ante, p. 146.

(e) Caffrey v. Darby, 6 Ves. 496.

(f) Tickell v. Short, 2 Ven. Senr. 239.

pondent to insure; but limits his broker to too insure, the insursmall a premium, in consequence of which no in- owing to his missurance can be procured; the merchant here is li- management. able to make good any loss sustained by his correspondent (a). A person who has effected an insurance as agent, cannot dispute the claim of his only insurance as known principal, on the ground that other persons agent, cannot dispute the are interested in the subject matter of the insur- claims of his only known principal, ance: any such claims must be settled between on the ground that other parties the parties making them and the party in whose are interested in name the insurance was effected; the agent is surance. estopped from denying the right of his principal (k).

ance be not made.

A person who has effected an the subject of in-

It has been repeatedly determined (though Lord Keeper North was not satisfied with the principal entitled to any ple (i), which, in truth, seems very questionable); advantage made by evading pay. that, a factor is entitled to all the advantage which ment of foreign he can make by evading the payment of foreign ly can set up no customs (k): but however this may be, it is clear, of a fraud upon that, such a rule cannot apply to home duties; for there can be no custom of merchants grounded on a fraud to the King (1).

Whether a factor is, or is not, customs; he clearclaim in respect home duties.

If a man, bound by contract to supply one article, send another; under such circumstances, that right to divest it can neither be returned, nor absolutely rejected, himself of the character of purwithout great loss arising; the vendee has a right, chaser, and act even at common Law, to consider himself not as the vendor.

In what case a as the agent of

a purchaser,

(g) Wallace v. Tellfair, 2 T. B. 188, note.

(h) Roberts v. Ogilby, 9 Price, 285.

(i) Anonym. Skinner, 149.

(k) Knipe v. Jesson, 1 Cha.

Ca. 76; Smith v. Oxenden, 2 Freem. 173.

(1) Borre v. Varde, 2 Freem. 174; Papilion v. Hix, 1 Cha. Ca. 256.

a purchaser, but as the agent of the vendor; and he may sell the goods on the consignor's account (m).

Delay in making claims, is an objection of less weight when urged by an agent, in bar of the rights of his principal, than in any other case.

Long delay in bringing forward even the justest claims, may, in many cases, bar the title to relief; but it is, at least, very difficult for a confidential agent and steward to impute neglect to his employer; whose negligence it is his duty to guard against with respect to all his transactions, but more particularly as to all those in which he, the agent. is concerned. For it is his duty to render an account, and a fair account, to his principal; and distinctly to apprise him of the whole of his Length of time weighs less in such a case An agent may than in any other (n). No doubt, a man holding the relation of agent, or steward, to another, may fidential charac- put himself altogether into an adverse situation. divesting himself of the character of agent: and, ther in an adverse if he so deal as to make it not possible to state, that, any confidence was reposed in him; he will not continue subject to the peculiar responsibilities which attach on confidential situations: but the question will be, whether, when dealing with his employer, he has, distinctly, placed himself in an adverse situation (o)?

shake off the responsibility attached to his conter, by placing himself altogesituation: but he must shew, distinctly, that this has been done.

Settled accounts not opened, unless specific errors are charged bill:

It is, however, a general, and most material, rule, in all cases of accounts, that, where there has been by the plaintiff's a settlement, and the account has either been signed, or a security executed on the foot of it; a

Court

⁽m) Kemp v. Prior, 7 Ves. v. Cowley, 4 Price, 103. (o) Beaumont v. Boultbee, on

⁽n) Beaumont v. Boultbee, 5 appeal, 7 Ves. 609. Ves. 492, 494: and see, Milnes

Court of Equity will not open that transaction, unless the evidence produced (and that evidence founded on charges in the plaintiff's bill) shew the transaction to be so iniquitous, that, it ought not to be brought forward at all to affect the party sought to be bound. If the account impeached be a settled account, the Court expects the errors to be specified in the bill, and to be proved as specified; otherwise it would be easy to overturn the fairest accounts, if of a complicated nature (p). To this general rule, however, there is one, obviously equitable, exception: if it appear on the unless it appear. face of the account, by the agent's own admission, on the face of the account, that an that he has not given his employer credit, for what agent has not given credit for sums is acknowledged to be due; the necessity for point-admitted to be ing out specific errors by the bill can hardly exist (q). The reason of the rule ceasing, the rule Settled accounts itself will not be called into operation. Fraud, of may be opened, when fraud is reacourse, will be a sufficient ground for opening a sonably to be inferred from the settled account; and though positive fraud may mode of taking not be distinctly proved, yet it may be inferred though no facts from an improper manner of taking the accounts: of positive fraud be distinctly for instance, it would be extremely dangerous if proved. accounts settled between two stewards, without vouchers produced, should, as against their respective principals, be deemed settled accounts: and a Court of Equity would certainly give leave to surcharge and falsify such accounts (r).

the accounts; al-

In many cases, in which an action of assumpsit

Transactions would between princi-

⁽p) Drew v. Power, 1 Sch. & Lef. 192; Chambers v. Goldwin, 9 Ves. 266.

⁽r) Beaumont v. Boultbee, 7 Ves. 617.

⁽q) Matthews v. Wallwyn, 4

pal and agent being coupled with a trust; a bill in Equity will hold in many cases where assumpsit would also lie at common Law:

would lie against an agent, as for money had and received on account of his principal, a bill in Equity will also hold; upon the ground that such transactions are coupled with a trust. So, if money be advanced to an agent, for the purpose of making a particular purchase; though an action at Law will lie for money had and received; if the specific object be countermanded, or shewn to be at an end (s); a bill in Equity, treating such agent as a trustee, and praying that he may be decreed specifically to perform the trust, if practicable, or otherwise account for the money, may also be sus-Indeed, whenever matters of account for matters of in- tained (t). tricate account, especially where are at all intricate, they are more properly cognizable in Equity than at Law: as the plaintiff may, in a Court of Equity, have a discovery of books and papers, and the advantage of the defendant's And, especially where there have been oath. mutual dealings, and consequently reciprocal demands, these are best examined, so as to do complete justice to all parties, before a Master; who can make to each all due allowances: should any doubt arise as to a particular demand, to ascertain the justice of which would be more properly the province of a jury, an issue may be directed (u). Agents, whether for the Crown or for individuals, interest made on are, prima facie, not entitled to put into their own money belonging to their prin- pockets any interest they may have made upon sums

there are reciprocal demands, can be best settled under the cognizance of a Court of Equity.

Agents must account for any cipals.

⁽s) Case v. Roberts, Holt's N. P. C. 501; Taylor v. Lendey, 9 East, 53.

⁽t) Scott v. Surman, Willes, 405.

⁽u) 1 Equ. Ca. Ab. 5, in margin; O'Connor v. Spaight, 1 Sch. & Lef. 309; Corporation of Carlisle v. Wilson, 13 Ves. 278.

sums paid into their hands, on account of their employers: they must shew a special case to exempt themselves from the general rule, that, as between agent and principal, the latter is not only entitled to money received, on his account, by the former, but, also, to the fruit derived from it (w).

A principal cannot, it seems, recover from his agent sums received in respect of illegal transactions: at least, where the demand can only be made out through the medium of an agreement as to such illegal transactions; though it might be possible to sustain a collateral demand, even of this questionable origin: as, for instance, if the proceeds had been paid over in trust for the principal, to a third person, not a party to the illegal transaction; a Court of Equity would not allow him to set up that objection, as a reason for not performing his trust (x). So, an executor to a smuggler, on being called to account for the estate of his testator, endeavoured to avoid a considerable part of the account, by saving, that, it re-proceedings, and lated to smuggling transactions; but the executor of innocent perwas not allowed to set up this as a defence against sons intervene. creditors and légatees. The smuggler could not. it was held, have been sued, himself, in respect of demands arising out of such illegal dealings; but the tort died with him; and could afford no justi-

It seems, that, a demand solely depending upon an agreement as to illegal transactions cannot be maintained:

but a collateral trust may arise, affecting the proceeds of such transactions, which trust must be executed.

Distinction, where the question is agitated between parties to the illegal where the claims

fication

⁽w) Crawford v. Attorney General, 7 Price, 78.

Russell, 1 Bos. & Pull. 296; Tennant v. Elliot, ibid. 3; that (x) Thomson v. Thomson, 7 the rule is the same at common

Ves. 473: and see Farmer v. Law.

gality of a transaction comes in question, it seems most proper to take the opinion of a Court of Law, before decreeing an acwhether the transaction be hibitum.

fication of fraud on the part of his executor (y). And a bill, for an account of profits made by an illegal partnership, has been dismissed; as not being a fit subject for an account in Equit (z). Where the le- Wherever, indeed, the legality of a contract between an agent and his employer comes in question, it seems most proper to take the opinion of a Court of common Law; by directing a case, before decreeing an account (a). Not only where a count in Equity: transaction is malum in se, but, where it is merely malum prohibitum, a contract relative thereto will, malum in se, or only malum pro- (according to what seems the preferable opinion), receive no aid from Equity (b): and, a debt incurred in the course of dealings contrary to Law, cannot be proved under a commission of bankrupt (c). And Sir William Grant, also, has decided, that, profits made in the course of dealings prohibited by Law cannot be the subject of account in Equity(d); expressly disapproving the case in which Lord Rosslyn, however, held, (what cannot now

> be implicitly relied upon), that, although a Court of Equity would not execute an illegal contract; yet, that, where the parties have had dealings together upon a variety of transactions, and a general account is sought; it would be unjust not to

Sir William Grant's opinion;

(y) Joy v. Campbell, 1 Sch. & Lef. 339.

Richardson, 3 Meriv. 470: but see Ex parte Bulmer, 13 Ves. 316.

bring

⁽z) Knowles v. Haughton, 11 Ves. 168.

⁽a) Ex parte Daniels, 14 Ves. 193.

⁽b) Ottley v. Browne, 1 Ba. & Beat. 364; Aubert v. Maze, 2 Bos. & Pull. 375; Evans v.

⁽c) Ex parte Mather, 3 Ves. 373; Ex parte Bulmer, 13 Ves.

⁽d) Knowles v. Haughton, 11 Ves. 169.

bring into that account any profit or loss, made even upon a course of smuggling transactions (e). Lord Erskine, it is true, thought it much too large and Lord Erand general a proposition to say, that, when a plaintiff cannot open his case without shewing that he has broken the Law, a Court of Equity will not assist him(f). It should be recollected, however, that, the cases of Faikney v. Reynous, and Petrie v. and Petrie v. Hannay, upon which Lord Erskine relied, have Hannay, much shaken. been, both before and since, repeatedly doubted; if not absolutely overruled (g): And, of course, together with his premises, his Lordship's deductions (so far as they were solely dependent thereon), must also fall.

Cases of Faikney v. Reynous,

An infant may be charged in trover, for that is a tort; but he cannot be compelled to account as not be compelled to account as facfactor, or agent: whenever a minor is employed, tor or agent. therefore, in such capacities, security for the performance of his duties should be taken, from persons competent to bind themselves by contract (h). It is a general rule, at common Law, that, where the cause of action is a tort, arising ex delicto, and supposed to be by force, and against the king's peace; there a personal action dies with the person; for by injuries of this sort the offender acquires no gain to himself. But, where, besides the

A minor can-

Where, besides

⁽e) Watts v. Brooks, 3 Ves. 613; but see Langton Hughes, 1 Mau. & Sel. 596; Ex parte Bell, ibid. p. 757.

⁽f) Ex parte Bulmer, 13 Ves. 316.

⁽g) Exparte Daniels, 14 Ves.

^{193;} Cannan v. Bryce, 3 Barn. & Ald. 183; Aubert v. Maze, 2 Bos. & Pull. 374; Mitchell v. Cockburne, 2 H. Bla. 381.

⁽h) Smalley v. Smalley, 1 Eq. Ca. Ab. 6.

the criminal offence, property is acquired by a tort, and the offender dies, relief may be had against his executor.

A bill for an account lies against the representatives of a deceased factor: may be sought against him alone.

Wherever trover would lie the case must also be within the cognizance of Equity: and when conversion, in the strict legal sense, cannot be established. relief can only be had in Equity:

the crime, property is as acquired by the offender, there, an action for the value of the property will survive against his executor (i). relief, in such cases, may be had in a Court of Equity (k); where it is held, that, although an action sounding in damages dies with the person. yet, a fraudulent gain made by such tort is a debt, upon which the jurisdiction in Equity attaches (1). In conformity with this principle, a bill for an account will lie against the executors, or administrators, of a factor (m); but, notwithstanding this, but, if a joint factor survive, relief and although the jus accrescendi does not take place between merchants, a surviving factor may be compelled to account, not only for his own receipts, but for those of his co-factor also (n): as, on the other hand, the survivor alone can sue at Law, in respect of such factorship; but, on recovery, he must account with the executor of the deceased co-factor for a moiety of the sum recovered (o).

Wherever trover would lie at common Law, the at common Law. case must be one proper for Equity to deal with; and as conversion, which is the gist of an action of trover, can only be established where the plaintiff had the strict legal property; in all cases resting on agreement, or trust, relief can be had in Equity only. When, therefore, a party has agreed to

- (i) Sherrington's case, Saville, 40; Hambly v. Trott, Cowp. 376: and see Serit. Williams's note 1, to Wheatley v. Lane, 1 Saund. 216.
- (k) Bishop of Winchester v. Knight, 1 P. Wms. 407.
 - (1) Lord Hardwicke v. Ver-

- non, 4 Ves. 418.
- (m) Lee v. Bowler, Rep. temp. Finch, 125.
- (n) Holtscom v. Rivers, 1 Cha. Ca. 127.
- (o) Martin v. Crump, 1 Salk. 444.

to sell goods as factor, and is privy to an agreement thus, trover that the proceeds shall be disposed of in a par- would not lie against a party ticular manner, he cannot, after he has got them who has agreed to sell goods as into his hands by virtue of this engagement, retain factor, but who them in discharge of a debt due to himself. ver, indeed, could not be maintained against him; self; but Equity for he was put into possession by the owner; but will compel him to account. even if trover would lie, it is a fit case for Equity; and a bill for an account would hold (p).

An exception to the 11th section of the stat. 21 Jac. 1, c. 19, (which now forms the 70th section of ing to his employer, in the the consolidated bankrupt act (q),) is established, possession of a factor at the time in favor of parties who have put property into he becomes bankthe hands of a factor, merely to be by him dis- within the 70th posed of; if the factor have a bare authority to tute 5 Geo. 4, c. sell on account of his principal, and not to sell the 98; goods as his own; though he become bankrupt whilst the goods are in his possession, with the consent of the true owner, they cannot be seized under his commission: for this case, though within the letter, is not within the meaning of the statute (r). The ground of the exception is, that, for such possesthe possession of such persons does not carry, to sion does not give the reputation of the understanding of the world, the reputed owner-ownership. Lord Cowper, however, is stated, in one report (t) of Copeman v. Gallant, to have laid down son does not operate, and where, a qualification of this rule as to factors; and to from his long pos-

retains them in Tro- discharge of a

> Goods belongsect. of the sta-

Where this reasession, the goods

⁽p) Weymouth v. Boyer, 1 Ves. Jun. 424. See post, p. 172.

⁽q) Stat. 5 Geo. 4, c. 98.

⁽r) Ex parte Dumas, 2 Ves. Sen. 585; Copeman v. Gallant, 1 P. Wms. 314: and see under

the head of "Bankruptcy."

⁽s) Horn v. Baker, 9 Ves. 244.

⁽t) In margin of 7 Vin. Ab. 89.

upon as the bankquence; there, Lord Cowper was of opinion. the case ought not to be taken out of the statute:

this argument has been much weakened by Lord Redesdale's more recent observations.

of a share in the profits does not vest in a broker any property in adventure; though it may, as to third persons, render him liable as a partner;

have been looked have declared, that, if a factor continue long in rupt factor's own, possession, by which means the goods are taken who has obtained to be his own, and credit is given to him on that account; it would alter the case: and, that, it would be immaterial whether it was through fraud, or mere neglect, that such length of possession was permitted; for the inconvenience of giving a but, the force of false credit would be the same in either case. But, this reasoning does not seem to have been satisfactory to Lord Redesdale, who observes, that, the simple fact that credit has been given on the property, is a circumstance which might belong to a variety of cases not within the statute (u). probable, therefore, that, where neither actual fraud is proved, nor such gross laches is shewn as would justify the inference of fraudulent intention; the dictum ascribed to Lord Cowper would not, in the present day, be acted upon; at least, not to An allowance its full extent. Even an agreement, that a broker shall be paid in a particular way, viz. by a share of the profits of the dealings in which he is employed, the subject of the in lieu of brokerage, will not vest in him any share in the goods which he is employed to buy For, though a right to share in the proor sell. fits of a particular adventure may render a person liable, to third persons, as a partner, in respect of transactions arising out of the particular adventure, in the profits of which he was to participate (v); it still does not give him any interest in the property itself which was the subject matter of the adventure; the power over the property remains

> (u) Joy v. Campbell, 1 Sch. (v) See the Chapters on "Part-& Lef. 338. nership," and on "Bankruptcy."

in the person who furnished the capital with which it was purchased. It follows from these principles, that, if the bankers of the true owner property of his pay over the proceeds of a bill received from him principal to another person, it lies to the broker, who claims to be interested therein upon him to shew that he was jusas partner, on the ground that such bill was given tified in so doing. in respect of the adventure in the profits of which he was to participate; it lies upon the bankers to shew, that, they were justified in making that payment: for if a banker, or other agent, take upon himself to hand over the property of his principal to another person, the onus rests upon him to shew that he had authority to do so (w).

If an agent make over the

The sum due for commission may either be fixed by special contract, or regulated by the usage commission; how the claim thereof trade; but, in either case, an agent or factor to may be forfeited. may, in Equity, forfeit his claim to commission. by omitting to keep regular accounts (x): and, afortiori, he may bring this loss upon himself, even at common Law, by a positive desertion of his duty(y): or by an ignorant or careless discharge of it (z). And where an agent is made executor to his former employer; his character of agent executor, loses his right to comceases, and, with it, his right to commission (a).

If a banker (and the rule is equally applicable to any other agent) make advances to, or pay mo- make no advance on account of his ney on account of, his principal, after notice that employer, after notice of his such principal has committed an act of bankrupt- bankruptcy: nor

Agent made

An agent must can he set off

- (w) Smith v. Watson, 2 Barn. & Cressw. 407; S. C. 3 Dowl. & Ryl. 758.
- (x) White v. Lady Lincoln, 8 Ves. 371; Beaumont v. Boultbee, 11 Ves. 858.
- Hurst v. Holding, 3 **(y)** Taunt. 36.
- (z) Denew v. Daverell, 3 Campb. 453.
- (a) Hovey v. Blakeman, 4 Ves. 609.

subsequent receipts againt payments made.

cy; he must account to the assignees, if a commission issue, for all sums so improperly disbursed: and, if he have also received sums on the bankrupt's account, those sums will be considered as received to the use of the bankrupt's estate, and not to be set off against the payments made; which payments cannot even be proved as a debt under the commission: although, so far as they have been applied in discharge of creditors, they have, pro tanto, benefited the estate (b). But, if this were permitted, it would, to a certain extent. be confiding the execution of the bankrupt laws, and the payment of creditors, to the discretion of individuals; contrary to the policy of legislation with respect to mercantile dealings, and at great risk of fraud.

Liens in Equity, in many cases where the Law gives none:

lien means a right to detain property till a demand is satisfied.

general lien for the whole bain that capacity, upon consignments made to him by his employer:

There are liens which exist only in Equity, and of which Equity alone can take cognizance; though lien, in a proper sense, is a right which the Law gives. But it is usual to speak of lien by contract, though that be more in the nature of an agreement for a pledge. Taken either way. however, the question always is, whether there exist a right to detain the property in question A factor has a till a demand shall be satisfied (c). It would be impossible to carry on trade if a factor were not lance due to him, held to have a specific lien upon consignments made to him, for expenses which he thereby incurred: and it is now established, that, this lien may be made available not only for the discharge

of

⁽b) Hankey v. Vernon, 3 Br. (c) Gladstone v. Birley, 2 313. Meriv. 403, 404.

of demands in respect of the particular transaction, but extends to cover the whole balance, connected with the employment as factor (d), due on the general account between the parties (e): which lien cannot be overreached, even by prerogative process (f).

And though the agent may have parted with and upon their possession of the goods, he retains a lien on the hands of a purprice, whilst in the hands of the purchaser; and chaser; or on unpaid securities for upon any securities given for payment (g). But, if such price: but by redelivery of a factor redeliver property to his principal, by the property to thus parting with the possession, he parts with lien is lost: nor his specific lien (h). Nor can any claim to lien can a factor claim lien upon goods be maintained by a factor, in regard to goods which never, even construct which have never actually, or constructively, at ively, were in his least, come into his possession (i). But, though but, under cira mere consignment of goods to a factor is not suf- cumstances, constructive possesficient to give such consignee a lien, without other sion may give a circumstances; yet, it seems, that although actual possession has never been obtained, or has been parted with, circumstances may establish, or continue, such a constructive possession as, both in Equity and at Law, will support the claim to lien (k). And, notwithstanding the possession may

his principal the

If possession, have

- (d) Walker v. Birch, 6 T. R. 263; Houghton v. Matthews, 3 Bos. & Pull. 494.
- (e) Kruger v. Wilcocks, 1 Keny. Rep. 35.
- (f) The King v. Lee, 6 Price,
- (g) Houghton v. Matthews, 3 Bos. & Pull. 489; Vernon v. Hankey, 2 T. R. 119.
- (h) Kruger v. Wilcocks, Ambl. 254.
- (i) Kinlock v. Craig, 3 T. R. 123, 786; Nichols v. Clent, 3 Price, 567.
- (k) Alderson v. Temple, 4 Burr. 2239; Lempriere v. Pasley, 2 T. R. 496; Nichols v. Clent, 3 Price, 570; M'Combie v. Davies. 7 East, 7: and see the

though once parted with, be recovered, the lien revives.

have been absolutely parted with, yet, if it be subsequently recovered, the *lien* revives (*l*).

A special contract for a particular mode of payment, excludes claim of lien:

But, although a factor, as we have seen, has a lien both for his expenditure upon the goods in his possession, and his general balance upon former transactions, (at least upon such as are connected with his employment of factor,) still, if he enter into a special contract for a particular mode of payment; such special contract, in the nature of the thing, destroys the contract implied by the usage of mercantile dealings, and he loses the lien (m).

which is also lost by assent to a particular disposition of the pro-

It has already been stated, that, a broker, or factor, who has assented to a particular disposition of the proceeds of goods, which he has undertaken to sell; cannot, in fraud of his agreement, claim a lien on such goods, or their price (n): nor can a policy for his ge- broker maintain a claim of lien, for the general neral balance against the party balance of his own account with his employer; upon a policy which he has effected, at the request, if he knew it was indeed, of his correspondent, but with a full knowledge, at the time, that, such policy was effected But, as the servant on behalf of a third person. of his employer, he may retain the policy, until the *lien* of his principal thereon is satisfied (o). Tf

A broker has no lien upon a at whose request he effected it: on account of a third person.

> recent stat. of 4 Geo. 4, c. 83, by which it is declared, that, any person in whose name goods are shipped, shall be so far deemed the real owner, as to be enabled to give an effectual lies on such goods to persons advancing money, or giving credit, on the faith thereof.

(1) Whitehead v. Vaughan,

cited in Cooke's B. L. chap. 14, sec. 6.

- (m) Cowell v. Simpson, 16 Ves. 280. See Chase v. Westmore, 5 Mau. & Sel. 186; and Balch v. Symes, 1 Turn. & Russ. 92.
- (n) Weymouth v. Boyer, 1 Ves. Jun. 425.
- (o) Man v. Shiffner, 2 Bast, 529.

If an agent, who is directed to effect a policy, represent himself as having a power which is not en- agent can make a lien available. trusted to him, and employ a sub-agent; such sub-agent, it has been held, cannot retain the sum he may receive upon the policy, from the person for whose ultimate benefit it was effected; but can only deduct from the amount the premium he has paid, and the other charges due, on this particular policy (p): for a sub-agent, who knows he is not dealing with the principal, cannot acquire a broker's general lien (q). It is clear, indeed, that, if the agent disclose his principal, at the time, he principal's procannot in any way pledge the property of such perty, for his own debt, to one principal, to a third party, for his own private who knows him debt (r). But, both Lord Ellenborough, and Sir owner: Vicary Gibbs, C. JJ. distinctly held, that, if a po-effect a policy licy of insurance be effected by a broker, in ignor- upon property which hebelieves ance that the property to be covered by the in- to belong to his surance does not really belong to the persons by has a general whom he is employed; he has a lien upon the for his demands policy for the amount of the general balance which who employed This rule rests upon the same him. they owe him. Equity as that according to which, if goods are from a factor who sold by a factor in his own name, the purchaser name, may set has a right to set off a debt due from him, in an him from such action by the principal for the price of the whom the pringoods (s). The factor may be liable to his em-cipal, who trusted him, must

How far a sub-

An agent can-not pledge his to be not the real but, if a broker employers; he lien on the policy

A purchaser sells in his own off a debt due to factor: against

ployer

Geo. 4, c. 83.

⁽p) Lanyon v. Blanchard, 2 Campb. 598.

⁽q) Snook v. Davidson, 2. Campb. 220.

⁽r) Maans v. Henderson, 1 East, 337. Such knowledge of

the real ownership would take the case out of the late stat. 4

⁽s) George v. Clagett, 7 T.

R. 360; Rabone v. Williams, ibid. in note.

the purchaser knew the seller to be only an agent.

seek relief, unless ployer for holding himself out as the principal: but that is not to prejudice the purchaser, who, bona fide, dealt with him as the owner of the goods, and gave him credit as such. question is, whether he knew, or had reason to believe, that, the person with whom he dealt was only an agent? and the party who seeks to deprive him of his *lien* must make out the affirmative (t).

Distinction, in q uestions of this kind, between the nature of a factor's, and of a ment.

The distinction between a broker and a factor, is, in questions of this kind, very important. A factor is a person to whom goods are consigned for broker's employ-sale, by a merchant residing abroad or at a distance, and the factor usually sells in his own name, without disclosing that of his principal; who, with full knowledge of this usage, trusts him with the actual possession of the goods. broker is in a different situation, he is not trusted with the possession of the goods, and ought not to sell in his own name. A person, therefore, who deals with another whom he knows to act commonly as a broker, cannot, as against his principal, be allowed to set off a debt due from such broker, in discharge, or part payment, of the price of the goods so purchased: more especially, if he neglected to inquire whether, in that particular transaction, the vendor was acting as broker, or as principal. If such a claim were allowed, no merchant could safely employ a broker, who, by delivering a false note to the buyer, might defeat the rights of his employer altogether (u).

The

⁽t) Stat. 4 Geo. 4, c. 83. Man v. Forrester, 4 Campb. 61; Westwood v. Bell, ibid. 354.

⁽u) Baring v. Currie, 2 Barn. & Ald. 144. See stat. 4 Geo. 4, c. 83, that any persons, in

The master of a merchant vessel is the agent of the owners; for supplies furnished (w), or repairs contract, for redone to such vessel in this country, the owners are personally liable; as the master may also make him- try: but, for neself, by the agreement (x); but, the ship cannot be abroad, the maspledged without a special contract: though where cate both the repairs are necessary in the course of a voyage, and must be done in a foreign country, the necessity of the case will justify the master in hypothecating both the ship and cargo (y). The necessity, however, which creates, must also limit, that power: the master must use it only for a reasonable purpose; for the benefit of the ship and cargo. If, instead of hypothecating the vessel, the master if, instead of so domake himself personally responsible, by giving his own bills for the own bills for the repairs done, (which may be the repairs, most advantageous course for the owner's interest, and, perhaps, even the only practicable mode of getting the repairs effected,) it seems to have been Lord Eldon's opinion, that, the master may, thereby, establish a lien on the ship; and, as he whether he cannot hypothecate to himself, that, no instrument thereby gains a lien upon the is necessary to raise this Equity (2). The case of ship, is a question upon which the Hussey v. Christie, however, was sent for the opin-doctrines of comion of the Court of King's Bench, who certified those of Equity

No lien on a ship, unless by pairs done thereto in this counter may hypothevessel and cargo:

mon Law and against variance:

whose names goods are shipped, shall be so far deemed the real owners, as to be enabled to give an effectual lien thereon, to parties advancing money on the faith of such shipments.

- (w) Speerman v. Degrave, 2 Vern. 643.
- (x) Farmer v. Davies, 1 T. R. 109; Rich v. Coe, Cowp. 639.
- (y) Watkinson v. Barnardiston, 2 P. Wms. 367; The Gratitudine, 3 Rob. Adm. Rep. 257; Ex parte Shank, 1 Atk. 234.
- (z) Hussey v. Christie, 13 Ves. 600.

against the master's lien(a): but, this determination does not seem to have been held conclusive on Courts of Equity by Lord Eldon; who, on a subsequent occasion, observed, that "where advances, for repairs, are made by the master, he must have a lien, without an instrument (b)." As, in a still more recent case, the Court of King's Bench abided by, and confirmed, their former decision (c); it should seem, that, according to the present state of authorities, the doctrine of Law is hardly consonant with that of Equity, upon this subject. If it is to be considered as a pure legal question, of course, the repeated judgments of Courts of common Law grounds for sup- conclude it: but the arguments of convenience, amounting almost to necessity, in some cases, as urged by Lord Eldon (d), are powerfully in favor of the propriety of the master's making himself personally responsible; and when that is done for the benefit of the owners, it seems difficult to deny the When not mix equitable claim to lien. And as, in such cases, when not mixed up with other circumstances upon which the jurisdiction of our ordinary Courts of Law or Equity attaches, proceedings in rem, against the ship itself, come within the peculiar province of the Court of Admiralty; which, in many instances, adopts the civil Law as the basis of its judgments; it seems probable; (though no positive decision occurs to the present writer's recollection,) that, a master's lien, in respect of advances made for

porting the claim to equitable lien, in such cases.

ed up with other circumstances. this question would properly, perhaps, be with-in the Admiralty jurisdiction: and, if decided upon the rules of civil Law, the lien would prevail.

(a) 9 East, 433.

(b) Ex parte Halket, 3 Ves. & Bea. 136.

Barnw. & Ald. 581.

(d) Hussey v. Christie, 13 Ves. 600.

⁽c) Smith v. Plummer, 1

for the repair of a ship, would be admitted in the Admiralty Court; for a right to priority of payment, in such case, is distinctly recognized by the code of civil Law (e). The Court of Admiralty, however, will not interpose their jurisdiction in not interpose, rem, where there are cross-demands between the where there are accounts to be litigant parties, which can only be properly inves- taken, and cross demands to be tigated in the Court of Chancery (f): Where ac-settled, which counts are to be taken, and the respective inter- in Chancery. ests of contending parties to be ascertained, it is the business of the Court of Chancery to interfere: and a prohibition would issue if the Court of Admiralty were to proceed (g).

But the Court of Admiralty wil can best be done

It is clear, that, the parties who accept, in payment for repairs of a ship, the captain's bills, rely-ceptance of pering on his personal security, cannot afterwards as-claim to specific sert any claim to lien on the vessel; to establish such a right, they must at least shew, that, although the bills, by mistake, purported only to pledge the captain's responsibility; yet, that, the contract and true intention was, that, the ship also should stand pledged, as a further security (h). Where money has been borrowed by the master of a vessel, os- has been advanced for the necestensibly for the purpose of repairing, or supplying, sary repairs, or supplies, of a the ship; and such repair, or supply, appears to ship, in a foreign have been necessary; the lien of a party who makes plication of the the advances will not be affected by a misapplica- money by the master will not

By distinct acsonal security,

Where money country, a misaption affect the lies of the lender.

⁽e) Dig. lib. 42, tit. 5, sec. 26 & 34; and Domat. lib, 3, tit. 1, sec. 5, article 7: as to the admiralty jurisdiction, see Menetone v. Gibbons, 3 T. R. 269.

⁽f) The John, 3 Rob. Adm. Rep. 292.

⁽g) Haly v. Goodson, 2 Meriv. 80.

⁽h) Ex parte Halket, 19 Ves. 474.

tion of the money by the master to other purposes:

that is a matter between him and his employer, with which a third person has nothing to do; unless personally implicated, by the facts of the transaction, in the fraud which may have been practised (i). And though it was formerly held, that, the master of a ship could not sell (k), in cases of the most unyielding necessity, that principle has been qualified in modern times: but, even now, the master cannot sell, either ship or goods, except in a case of inevitable necessity (l).

The master may sell his vessel, or her cargo, in cases of clear necessity.

How the right to contribution is to be enforced, when part of the cargo has been sacrificed to the security of the remainder.

Should the master of a vessel find it necessary, for the safety of the ship, to throw a part of the cargo overboard; the owners of such part of the cargo as is preserved are liable to contribution towards the loss; and the master is not bound to deliver any part of the cargo, until he has the security of each freighter for his proportion. But, this right of *lien* is personal to the master; and the several owners of the different parts of the cargo cannot compel him to exercise it: if he omit to do so, the right to contribution will, no doubt, still remain, but it must be enforced by regular process, not by asserting a *lien* (m).

An agent caunot delegate his authority;

Where a personal confidence is reposed in any agent, he cannot transfer his commission to a stranger; a delegated authority can be executed only

- (i) The Gratitudine, 8 Rob. Adm. Rep. 272.
- (k) Johnson v. Shiffen, 2 Lord Raym. 984; Tremenheere v. Tresilian, 1 Siderf. 45.
 - (1) Freeman v. East India
- Company, 5 Barn. & Ald. 623; S. C. 1 Dowl. & Ryl. 240; Cannan v. Meaburn, 1 Bingh. 247.
- (m) Hallett v. Boutfield, 18 Ves. 191.

only by the person to whom it is entrusted: though without the asof course, if the employer assent to the substitu- ployer. tion of a third person as his agent, he cannot subsequently raise an objection on that ground (*). But, the general rule being, that, an agent cannot It is prudent, in dealing with an bind his principal beyond the limits of his author- agent, to ascerity (ρ) , it behoves those who transact business his authority; with an agent to see that his acts are strictly within the scope of his commission. It is equally es- and that it has sential, that, they should be satisfied, the authority ed. has not been revoked; every power of attorney is, Powers of attorin its nature, revocable; and, in ordinary cases, ture revocable; the jurisdiction of Courts of Equity cannot be founded on such an instrument: though, where but, when exeit has been executed for valuable consideration, able consider-Equity will not permit it to be revoked (p); for ation, the revocathis would be a plain fraud. But, a power of at- in Equity. torney to a creditor to receive money, notwith- to a creditor to standing it may purport to be irrevocable, is re-however, is revoked by the debtor's death: and when there has debtor's death; if been no assignment of the sum so intended to be the money has notbeen previous received, nor any specific appropriation thereof; lyappropriated. the mere power will not avail against the general creditors of the party who executed it; but the money will be part of his assets (q).

tain the limits of

not been revok-

ney in their na-

cuted for valu-

A power given receive money,

To explain a doubtfully worded letter of attorney to a factor, it seems, that, evidence of the cus- ted to explain, tom of merchants, in regard to transactions of a na-

The custom of merchants admit-

ture

(o) Bank of Scotland v. Wat-

⁽p) Bromley v. Holland, 7 (n) Coles v. Trecothick, 9 Ves. 251; Blore v. Sutton, 8 Ves. 28. Meriv. 246. (q) Lepard v. Vernon, 2 Ves. & Bea. 53.

thority given to a factor.

tion given to an agent in a particular instance, will not affect a purchaser from him, when his employers have previously recognized his dealings in the ordinary course: but this rule applies only to general, not to spe-

cial, agents.

ture similar to that in question, is admissible (r). and limit, the au- And such evidence may even be received to limit, what in terms is, a general authority (s). On the Private instructions other hand, notwithstanding private instructions as to a particular parcel of goods; the general authority of agents to sell, so as to bind their principal, as far as the purchaser is concerned, may be inferred from their general course of dealing (t), which has been previously recognized by their employers (u).

But, although, for the convenience of trade, the rule last mentioned prevails with respect to general agents, still, where a special agent is only employed to do a single act, he must, as we have seen, strictly pursue his authority, or his principal will not be bound: the agent may render himself liable for any act done in excess of his authority, but the party who incautiously deals with him has no re-Express limita- medy against the principal (w). Express limitations, however, of even a special agent's authority, are necessary to exclude his reasonable discretion, as to such subordinate acts as are fairly and who, if employed usually incident to the main business entrusted to him; thus, a special agent, employed to get a bill discounted, may bind his principal by indorsement, ment, for this is, ordinarily, an act unless he has received positive instructions not to

tions, however, are necessary to exclude the reasonable discretion of even a special agent; to get a bill discounted, may bind his principal by indorse-

- (r) Ekins v. Macklish, Ambl. 186.
- (s) Dickinson v. Lidwall, 4 Campb. 280.
- (t) Whitehead v. Tuckett, 15 East, 408.
- (u) Daniel v. Adams, Ambl. 498: see suprà; and, in The East
- India Company v. Hensley, 1 Espin. N. P. C. 112, see the distinction taken by Lord Kenyon: see, also, Howard v. Braithwaite, 1 Ves. & Ben.
- (w) Shipley v. Kymer, 1 Mau. & Sel. 494.

do so (x); for such an act is in the ordinary course required by the of dealing, and without indorsement it might be ing. very difficult to negotiate the bill. And, it is clear, there would be no safety in mercantile transactions, his principal if a general agent could not bind his principal, within the limits of the authority within the limits of the authority with which he ostensibly given to him: has been apparently clothed, by his employer, in respect of the subject matter (y). It would be a and the employer palpable fraud, indeed, if a party, who had osten-cannot evade responsibility by sibly conferred upon his general agent the ordina-secret instrucry powers, under which business of a similar kind is commonly transacted, could elude responsibility by secret instructions: and, in such cases, it seems absolutely necessary to restrict the generality of the rule, that, if a person is acting ex mandato, those dealing with him must look to his mandate (x).

In perfect conformity with the distinction just stated, it is now established, that, brokers, or fac- but, without tors, may sell the goods entrusted to them; for special instructions, cannot that is the ostensible purpose of the consignment: pledge, the goods but they cannot pledge the goods, without special them. instructions; for that is not a business the transaction of which forms their usual and understood employment (a). And, as liens are personal, a fac- To what extent tor, or broker, who pledges his principal's goods, a factor may transfer his lien

Every general agent may bind

Brokers or factors may sell.

as on his employer's goods.

- (x) Fenn v. Harrison, 3 T. R. 760; S. C. 4 T. R. 177.
- (y) Pickering v. Busk, 15 East, 42.
- (z) De Bouchout v. Goldsmid, 5 Ves. 218.
 - (a) Kuckein v. Wilson, 4

Barn. &. Ald. 447; M'Combie v. Davies, 6 East, 540: but see the stat. 4 Geo. 4, c. 83, that, where goods have been shipped in the name of any person whatever he may pledge them.

as his own, does not thereby transfer any title to the pawnee, even to the extent of any lies, which

In what case an innocent pawnee may retain goods against been induced to part with the by fraud.

such factor, or broker, had on the goods in question: though, if the possession of the goods had been handed over with notice of the lien, and as a security only to the extent of such lien, the transfer would not be tortious (b). There may, even. be cases in which one person, by a gross fraud, a person who has persuades another to make over to him the absolute property in goods, and, if they are subsequentabsolute property ly pledged to an innocent pawnee, it may be, that, however gross the fraud, the former owner may have no right to retake the goods, otherwise than subject to the pledge: but, so long as he retains the ownership, a man may retake his goods, notwithstanding any act whatsoever which a stranger may do(c): and, for the purpose of pledging, a broker, or factor, is, as we have seen, quasi a stran-To assist the legal remedy, therefore, for reremedy for goods covery of goods pledged by a factor, a bill of discovery may be maintained in Equity (d).

Bill of discovery lies in aid of legal pledged by a

Negotiable securities not within the general rule as to transfer of a principal's property by a factor.

A bont fide

The rule as to the transfer of a principal's property by a factor, is not applicable, however, to negotiable securities. Every bona fide holder of instruments of this description derives his title from the instruments themselves; the property in which passes by delivery (e). For the law is settled.

- (b) See the last cited case, on a motion for a new trial, 7 East,
- (c) Hooper v. Ramsbottom, 6 Taunt. 13; Hartop v. Hoare, 3 Atk. 48.
- (d) Marsden v. Panshall, 1 Vern. 407; and see Strode v. Blackburne, 3 Ves. 226.
- (e) Wookey v. Pole, 4 Barn. & Ald. 8; Hartop v. Houre, 3 Atk. 50.

tled, that, a holder coming fairly by bills or notes, holder of bills has without notice of any circumstances affecting their nothing to do with the fairness validity (f), has nothing to do with the transac- of the dealings between the o.i. tion between the original parties; unless, perhaps, ginal parties: in the single case, (which is a hard one, but has were given for a been determined), of a note for money won at play (g). But, where a person has been plundered of bank notes, the Bank is justified in suspend- stolen bank notes, ing payment, till it is ascertained, that, the party tendering them is not contaminated with the guilt (h).

unless the bills gambling debt.

Practice as to

The question, in such cases, (with the single exception above noticed), is always one of bona fides; wno accepts tro and, even one who has not been personally privy securities, which the agent had no to any fraud in accepting the transfer of property right to transfer, it has been said, of this kind, may constructively be implicated in cannot retain such fraud: for instance, if a man receive securi- was not privy to ties from his own agents, who acted mala fide in any fraud in the transaction: giving them to him, the principal, taking them through such agency, must take them with all the defects of title belonging to the agent (i). It may but, quere, if this be questionable how far this decision, (as to the overruled by stat. purpose for which it is cited), is affected by the 51 Geo. 3, c. 617 statute which passed shortly after (k), and, probably, in consequence of it. The question in Glyn v. Baker arose upon a transfer of India bonds,

A principal who accepts from them, though he

(f) Amory v. Meryweather, 2 Barn. & Cressw. 579; S. C. 4 Dowl. & Ryl. 92.

(g) Peacock v. Rhodes, 2 Bough. 635; Wookey v. Pole, 4 Barn. & Ald. 9; Graves v. Houlditch, 2 Price, 147. Usury was, formerly, another exception; but see, now, stat. 58 Geo. 3. c. 93.

and

(h) Solomons v. Bank of England, 13 East, 137.

(i) Glyn v. Baker, 13 East, 515: see post.

(k) Stat. 51 Geo. 8, c. 64, sec. 4.

and appears to have called the attention of the Legislature to the convenience of giving a legal effect to such transfers, and making the property pass by delivery of possession. But, it does not necessarily follow, because, since the act, a party taking a transfer of India bonds, for good consideration, will be protected in the possession, however defective the title of the person from whom he received them might be, when that person is not his own agent; that, he will, therefore, stand free from all imputation of even constructive privity to a fraud committed by his own agent, in that very transaction. The words of the act, however, express no such distinction; this suggestion, therefore, must be received (as it is offered.) very doubtif so, the respon-fully: but if it be inadmissible, the doctrine of the sidility of a principal for the fraud of his cipal for the fraud of his or his agent, receives this further agent, must receive this further qualification.

sibility of a prinqualification.

Generally cipal is taken to know all that is known by his agent in the course of any transaction; mation acquired fore he was employed as such:

The general rule, certainly, is, that, the princispeaking, a prin pal must be taken to know whatever is known to his agent; and, that, by construction of law, notice to an agent is notice to the principal, if the agent come to the knowledge of the fact while he is conbut not the infor-cerned for the principal (1). But, of course, the by the agent be- agent cannot stand in the place of the principal, until the relation of principal and agent is constituted; and as to all information which he has previously acquired, the principal is a mere stranger(m). It seems, too, that, in most cases, the notice to the agent must have been given, or acquired,

or, it seems, in transactions distinct from the very one com-plained of:

⁽l) Hiern v. Mill, 13 Ves. (m) Mountford v. Scott, 3 120. Mad. 40.

quired, in the course of the very transaction complained of (n); and, with respect to counsel or so- this last restriclicitors, at any rate, employed to examine titles to requisite with estates, this restriction seems indispensable: other- respect to counsel and solicitors: wise, as Lord Hardwicke frequently expressed himself, it would make purchasers' and mortgagees titles depend altogether on the memory of their legal advisers; and the counsel of greatest eminence would be the most dangerous to employ (o). Which argument had been previously used by Chief Baron Revnolds, who laid it down as clear law, that, a purchaser shall never be affected by constructive notice to his counsel who had not notice at that particular time; for it is not possible for a counsel to have in his memory all the business which has gone through his hands for several years before (p). It does not, however, ap-but, it is not nepear necessary, even in such cases, that notice express notice, should be given, in express terms, at the very time given at the time of the transaction, of the transaction: it seems, that, the principal if knowledge de will be bound, if knowledge of the circumstances, brought home to at the time, can be brought home de facto to his a legal adviser, or agent. legal adviser; although notice may have been received on a previous occasion (q). For there is no difference as to personal or constructive notice, in as actual notice. its consequences, except as to guilt; and it would be very inconvenient if the rule were otherwise.

tion is clearly

for

⁽n) Hiern v. Mill, ubi suprà.

⁽o) Lowther v. Carlton, 2 Atk. 242; Worsley v. Earl of Scarborough, 3 Atk. 392; Warwick v. Warwick, ibid. 294.

⁽p) Fitzgerald v. Lord Fau-

conberge, Fitz. Gibb. 111.

⁽q) Toulmin v. Steere, 3 Mer. 222; Le Neve v. Le Neve, 3 Atk. 646; Mountford v. Scott, 1 Turn. & Russ. 280; Norris v. Le Neve, 3 Atk. 36.

approbation, the party for whose benefit acts were done recognizes the doer as his agent ab initio.

for then notice would be avoided in every case, by By subsequent employing an agent (r). And a person will be deemed to have been an agent ab initio, if the acts done by him, before he was engaged in that capacity, are subsequently approved by the party for whose benefit he was, though without instructions, negotiating (s).

Without such ratification, a principal not bound when his agent exceeds his authority.

tions of an auctioneer not admissible to contradict the parnot for the purspecific perform ance:

but, when personal notice of a

mistake in the

But, in order to bind the principal, the agent must either have had full powers to conclude a transaction, or his dealing, if without such powers, must have been afterwards ratified; an agent employed to draw up an agreement upon certain terms, must Verbal declara- not agree to other terms (t). And where a sale is made under written particulars, the verbal declarations of the auctioneer at the time of sale (though ticulars; at least it is decided he is to be considered as equally the pose of enforcing agent for both the vendor and the vendee (u), are not admissible to contradict the particulars; at any rate, not, in general cases, for the purpose of enforcing a specific performance: whether such evidence might be admitted on behalf of a defendant, resisting, on the ground stated, specific performance according to the particulars, is more questionable (w). It seems doubtful, also, whether there might not be room for the admission of such evidence:

> (r) Sheldon v. Cox, 2 Eden, 228; S. C. Ambl. 626; Maddox v. Maddox, 1 Ves. Senr.

> (e) Jennings v. Moore, 2 Vern. 610; Merry v. Abney, 2 Freem. 154.

(t) Shelburne v. Inchiquin, 1 Pr. 351.

(u) Kenworthy v. Schofield, 2 Barn. & Cressw. 947.

(w) Buckmaster v. Harrop, 18 Ves. 471; Higginson v. Clowes, 15 Ves. 528; Clinan v. Cooke, 1 Sch. & Lef. 39; Howard v. Braithwaite, 1 Ves. & Bea, 219. See the head of "Specific Performance."

evidence; even to compel performance where the particular has purchaser can be distinctly proved to have had case may be personal information given him of a mistake in the different. printed particulars of sale (x).

been given, the

An agent for sale continues such no longer than till the sale is completed: an auctioneer, therefore, be agent only till has no authority, after he has sold an estate, to the sale is comtreat as to the terms upon which a title is to be made (y). Where, however, a person is employed, but his duties do not merely as auctioneer for the sale of property, not terminate, necessarily, when and on that single occasion, but, an intimate con- he descends from the rostrum. nexion and confidence between his employer and himself subsists; the duties of such confidential agency will not terminate when he descends from the rostrum; and he will be disqualified, prima facie, from becoming the purchaser of the property he was employed to sell; if the rule were different, a fraudulent auctioneer might have a strong inducement to chill the sale, in order that the property might be bought in; when his situation would give him advantageous, but dishonest, opportunities of purchasing at an inadequate price (s).

An agent for sale continues to pleted:

not terminate,

If a factor lade the goods of his employer on board ship, without executing a charter-party, the swerable for the freight of his emgoods, the lading, and his principal, are liable for ployer's goods, the freight; but not the factor: though if he enter cutes a charterinto a charter-party, he may thus make himself cargo, and principal, liable.

A party who of a contract between an agent and his employers, gives credit to an agent individual-

Factor not anunless he exe-

⁽x) Ogilvie v. Foljambe, 3 Meriv. 65.

⁽z) Oliver v. Court, 8 Price, 160.

⁽y) Seton v. Slade, 7 Ves.

⁽a) Paul v. Birch, 2 Atk. 621.

^{276:} see suprà et infrà.

ly, may exclude himself from any claim upon the employers:

but no private arrangement between the principal and the agent will have this effect.

given to the agent will not discharge the principal, if the money has not really been paid:

been given to the bis accounts, on receipt:

vendor's remedy is against the agent only.

that the agent shall be at the sole expense of particular acts; and, in consequence of such notice, or merely as preferring his security, has given credit to the agent individually; may, by so doing, exclude himself from any claim against the principals (b): but, unless under such particular circumstances, no agreement between the principal and agent, nor even payment of any demand by the former to the latter, will be an acquittal of the principal, when the agent has not duly handed over Even a receipt the money to the creditor (c). Even a receipt given by the creditor to the agent, will not discharge the principal, if the debt has not been actually paid, unless such receipt has enabled the agent to obtain a fictitious credit with his princiunless credit has pal in passing his accounts. When that has been agent in passing the case, and there has been laches on the part of the faith of such the creditor in applying for his money, he will be deemed accessary to the fraud practised on the principal; and, as against him, will be estopped by the receipt, whether it was given fraudulently or in such case, the only imprudently (d). But, as against the agent, the receipt would not avail, provided it could be clearly proved that the money was not actually paid (e).

As the Law protects a principal against the consequences of fraudulent concert between his agent and the party with whom a contract, or purchase, is made on his account; so, a vendor, or other

dealer.

⁽b) Rich v. Coe, Cowp. 639; Paterson v. Gandesagui, 15 East. 68.

⁽c) Speerman v. Degrave, 2 Vern. 643.

⁽d) Tolson v. Hallett, Ambl. 272; Wyatt v. Marquis of Hertford, 3 Bast, 147.

⁽e) Coppin v. Coppin, 2 P. Wms. 294.

dealer, will be equally protected against any such conduct between the principal and his agent. Upon this principle, if a merchant employ a broker, who self of advantages is indebted to him, to effect insurances on his behalf, with a view that the premiums should go in the medium of his agent: liquidation of the accounts between them; if the policies are underwritten, but the premiums are not, in fact, paid, and the assured, well knew that the broker never had the means of paying them; the assured cannot take advantage of this fraud, contrived between his agent and himself: but, even at common Law, it seems, the premi-but, where there ums may be recovered against him; notwithstand- principal, an uning the general rule, that, if an underwriter choose only look to the to subscribe a policy without receiving payment, broker for payment of his prehe can only resort to the broker, to whom he gives mium. credit at his own risk (f). Thus, also, although Though a sale goods may have been sold, in form, to the agent, ly, to a broker, on his own account, yet, if the principal at all in-on his own account; yet, if this termeddled with the sale, or, if it should appear, was merely contrived to liquithat, the purchase was contrived with a view that date a debt from the goods, so obtained, should be applied in ex-principal, the tinction of a debt due from the agent to the prin- ble for the price. cipal; the latter will be responsible to the vendor, on the ground of fraud (g). In the case of brok- London brokers of the City of London, who are prohibited trade on their from making purchases, in the way of trade, on bills of sale made their own account; the mere fact, that, a bill of out in their names, when the sale is made out in the name of the broker, does real purchasers not affect the liability of the principal, either to breach of the

A principal cannot avail him-

is no fraud in the derwriter can

be made, formalthe agent to the latter will be lia-

ers must not are known, no

his

⁽f) Mavor v. Simeon, 3 . (g) Wilson v. Hart, 7 Taunt. Taunt. 497: see infrà.

broker's bond; nor can that fact alter the liabilities of the principals.

A merchant cannot take credit with underwriters for premiums which they have been prevented from receiving by his own fraud upon the agent he emplo, ed.

his agent, or to the vendor, provided it has been distinctly understood, by all parties, on whose account the purchase was really made. Nor is such a transaction a breach of the broker's bond for due performance of his public office (k).

Where a merchant has practised a fraud not only upon the underwriters, but also upon his own broker, whom he induced to make insurances, on his behalf, upon an engagement to supply the means of defraying the necessary premiums, which engagement he never fulfils: there, notwithstanding the policy is, as we have seen, in general conclusive of the payment, it would be a monstrous proposition to hold, that, the assured should be entitled to credit, in account with the underwriters. for the premiums which they never received, but which they ought to have received, and would have received, but for his fraud upon his own agent (i).

How far verbal declarations of an agent may be evidence against his principal:

An agent may, undoubtedly, within the scope of his authority, bind his principal by his agreement: and what the agent has said may be what constitutes, or at least was the inducement to, the agree-Therefore, in cases where writing is not necessary by Law, evidence must be admissible to prove the statement or representation of the agent. which led to the conclusion of the contract. except in some way of this kind, what is said by the agent cannot be evidence against the princi-Mere narration of a fact, in the course of by an agent cannot be assimilated conversation, (though it may have some relation

a mere admission pal. by an agent can-

to

⁽h) Kemble v. Atkins, 7 (i) Foy v. Bell, 3 Taunt. Taunt. 263. 496 : see suprá.

to business in which the person making the com- ed to an admismunication was employed as agent), cannot be evicipal. dence of the existence of the fact. If any fact. material to the interest of either party, rest in the knowledge of an agent, it is to be proved by his testimony, not by his mere assertion. It is impossible to assimilate the admission of an agent to the admission of the principal (k).

If a factor, however, sell goods for a principal, the evidence of the factor is admissible against the be used, both for vendee; and, on the other hand, the factor may be and against his principal. made a witness to prove the sale of goods to him, as factor, for the use of his principal (1).

As a general rule, there can be no difference, Generally, paywith respect to the discharge of a debtor, whether is as good a dispayment is made to the creditor, or, to his duly charge as payment to the prinauthorized agent (m). But a mortgagor, before he cipal: but a pays the mortgage debt to an agent of the mort-cannot be securegagee, must at least see, that, he is in possession of agent, unless he the mortgage deed: for, though the agent may has possession of the mortgage have been duly empowered to receive the interest, deeds, at least: it does not follow, that, the mortgagee ever intended to entrust him with the receipt of the principal money (n). And although the mortgage deed has and even the rebeen left in the hands of an agent, who delivers it delivery of the deeds would be up on receiving payment of the money due there-an imperfect discharge: the on; this, it seems the better opinion, will be no estate should be sufficient discharge, for the estate ought to be re-

of a factor may

(k) Fairlie v. Hastings, 19 Ves. 473.

Ves. 126.

(n) Henn v. Conisby, 1 Cha.

gularly

(1) Snee v. Prescott, 1 Atk.

Ca. 93; Gerrard v. Baker, cited ibid. p. 94.

(m) Thomson v. Thomson, 7

who has been wont to receive the interest, unless the security is in his hands: ed part of the it over to his thority to receive the remainder ed to him:

or unless it be partial payment as a duly authorized agent, and the authority has manded.

sends a bond to his agent, to be delivered up in consequence of such agent, cannot recal the bond, though by

Where no re-gularly reassigned (o). And where a scrivener has required, still the put out money at interest, and has been in the principal of a debt must not be habit of receiving the interest regularly; still, if paid to the agent the security is not left in his custody, payment of the principal monies due cannot safely be made to him (p). Even where a part of the principal sum even where such due on bond has been received by a scrivener, and agent has receiv- paid over to the obligee; still, if the remainder of debt, and handed the debt be paid to the same scrivener, who fails principal, his au- to pay it over to the creditor; the receipt of the scrivener will be no discharge of the debt, providwill not be inferred, if the security was not entrusted to such scriventy be not entrust- er; or unless it can be proved that he had express authority from the creditor to receive the money: which authority would not be inferred from the previous receipt of a part (q). But, if the fact of proved that he received the first agency can be proved, and also that the authority had never been countermanded, the whole of the payments made to the scrivener must be allowed not been counter- by the creditor, who had accepted a part through his medium (r): for, we have before seen, that, a principal cannot avow the act of his agent as to An obligor who part, and disavow it for the rest. And if, on payment of a bond debt to an agent, the principal send to such agent the bond (which he had prepayment made to viously, and at the time of payment, kept in his own custody) for the purpose of being delivered the insolvency of up to the obligee; although the money, in consequence

> (o) Duchess of Cleveland v. Dashwood. 2 Freem. 249: Whitelock v. Witham, 1 Salk. 157.

Vern. 150.

⁽p) Roberts v. Matthews, 1

⁽q) Wolstenholme v. Davies, 2 Freem. 290.

⁽r) Duchess of Cleveland v. Dashwood, 2 Freem. 250.

quence of the insolvency of the agent, should ne- the agent the ver come to the hand of his principal, the latter come to hand. cannot recal the bond: if he should obtain it, and In Equity, from attempt to put it in suit, by a bill in Equity he bond reached the may be enjoined from proceeding in the action; agent it was a trust for the obliand compelled to deliver up the bond, with costs: gee; the money being paid. for, from the time the obligee trusted his agent with the security, the agent was a trustee for the obligor; the money being paid (s).

As between vendor and vendee, when a deposit of part of the purchase money is made, to bind the answerable for the security of a contract, if the vendor has the sole nomination of deposit made in the agent who is to receive such deposit, (as is the a purchase by case where a sale is made by auction (t), it is but reasonable, that, he should also run the risk of his own agent's responsibility: and, in other cases, where the stake-holder is equally the nominee of equally the no. both parties, either has a right to propose chang- minee of both parties, and one ing the stake-holder; and the party refusing takes wishes him to be changed; the upon himself the risk: of course, a motion for pay- other, by refusing ment of a deposit into Court has at least as much change, takes weight as a private proposition for changing the upon himself the risk of the actual stake-holder; and the party who resists such mo- bolder's solvency. tion must bear any consequent loss of the deposit (u).

We have seen, that, a duly authorized agent, may, by his receipt, (given in the ordinary course position of his of transacting business), for monies due to his principal's debt: principal, discharge the debtor; but if, instead of payment of the debt in full, he accept a composi-

the time such

part payment of auction.

Where the his assent to such

not accept a com-

An agent must

tion.

⁽s) Abingdon v. Orme, 1 Eq. Mad. 596.

Ca. Ab. 145. (u) Fenton v. Browne, 14

⁽t) Annesly v. Muggridge, 1 Ves. 150.

but, though by such composition he cannot bind his principal, he may involve himself.

responsible to his client for submitting his rights to an award contrary to instructions: the client. bound by the submission at Law: quere, whether in Equity ?

A principal cannot retain a fraudulent purchase, though made without his privity by his agent: for, the mere transfer of an adby fraud will not sanction its retention:

tion, this may be evidence of fraudulent concert. and the debtor may be compelled to pay the money over again (w). But, though an agent cannot, without express authority to do so, make such a composition of a demand as will bind his principal; yet he may by the terms of his agreement make himself responsible, if full payment be afterwards An attorney is insisted upon (x). And, an attorney, though he may, at Law, bind his client by submitting, on his behalf, to an award; is yet responsible to such client if he make the submission fraudulently, or conhowever, will be trary to his instructions (y). Whether a solicitor has the same power of binding his principal, by submitting his client's interests, in matters brought by bill before the Court of Chancery, to reference, without instructions for that purpose, may be questioned (x).

A fraudulent purchase made by an agent on account of his principal, though without his privity. cannot be retained (a): for there is no doubt, that, it is competent to a Court of Equity to take away from third persons (even when they stand unconvantage obtained nected by the relation of principal and agent), the benefits which they have derived from the fraud, imposition, or undue influence of others (b). fortiori,

- (w) Penn v. Browne, 2 Freem. 214.
- (x) Parrot v. Wells, 2 Vern. 127.
- (y) Filmer v. Delber, 3 Taunt. 486; Rex v. Addington, Sayer, 259; Barker v. Braham, 3 Wils. 374, 378. See the heads of "Award," and
- "Solicitor and Client."
- (z) Colwell v. Child, 2 Freem. 154; S. C. 1 Ch. Ca. 86. (a) Ekins v. East India Com-
- pany, 1 P. Wms. 395.
- (b) Huguenin v. Baseley, 14 Ves. 289: see ante, pp. 183, 189; and, post, the head of " Settlement and Conveyance."

fertiori, if a principal, for whose benefit a fraudu- and where a prinlent bargain has been made, only kept personally himself personally aloof, only for aloof from the negotiation for the purpose of pleading that he was not privy to it; this will only be disclaiming privity, the artifice a further evidence of fraud: fraus est celare frau- willnot avail him. dem; and his pretended ignorance will not avail him(c).

After very considerable doubts, and some contradictory decisions, it seems now fully established, that, although sales by auction are within the sta-seller; and his tute of frauds; yet, that, equally with respect to sales the statute of of real as of personal property, the auctioneer is both parties: the duly authorized agent of both parties, and that his signature, on their behalf, satisfies the statute. and binds both the vendor and the vendee (d). But, upon the principle, which we have before ad-but, without verted to, namely, that, delegatus delegare non special assent, he cannot delegate potest; the auctioneer cannot, without evidence of this part of his special assent, appoint one of his clerks to sign contracts of sale, as his proxy (e).

An auctioneer is the agent of both buyer and signature satisfies frauds, and binds

agency to a clerk.

The additional premium which is always given on a del credere commission, is the price paid by commission, a a principal to his factor, in consideration of an un-factor undertake that the goods dertaking by the factor to warrant due payment he sells shall be for the goods he sells; it presupposes a guaranty. But, although the guarantor is to answer for the but the principal solvency of the vendee, and to pay the money if first application,

By accepting factor undertakes

(c) Ardglass v. Pitt, 1 Vern. 239.

(d) Blagden v. Bradbear, 12 Ves. 466; Buckmaster v. Harrop, 13 Ves. 472; Kemeys v. Proctor, 3 Ves. & Bea. 59; S. C. on appeal, 1 Jac. & Walk. 351; Emmerson v. Heelis, 2 Taunt. 47.

(e) Coles v. Trecothick, 9 Ves. 251. See, also, Blore v. Setton, 3 Meriv. 246.

it seems, to the vendee: unless the form of the instrument renders the broker liable primarily.

he does not; yet, application must, it seems, be made, in the first instance, to the vendee, as the primary debtor, before proceeding against the guarantor; unless where the broker has, by the form of the instrument, made himself primarily liable (f).

Where an agent purchases expressly as such, he incurs no personal responsibility;

by an agent for a compromise of his principal's rights, is binding

And where there is no practicable recourse to principals, professed agents may be personally liable: as, where public works are directed by commissioners.

and though such questions are cognizable at Law, they may involve intricate accounts, more fitted for investigation in Equity. ty (k).

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No general rule is better ascertained, or stands on a surer foundation, than this: that, where an agent names the principal for whom he, expressly as agent, purchases or contracts, the principal is but an agreement responsible, and not the agent (g). But if an agent enter into a compromise, on behalf of his principal, without due authority, this is a fraud; on humself aloue, and he renders himself, as we have seen, liable to make good the engagement he so improperly undertook to conclude (h). Where there is no principal to whom it is practicable to have recourse, there agents may, in some cases, though. professedly acting as such, make themselves personally responsible. Thus, commissioners for making a navigation, or an inclosure, are personally liable for any contract entered into, or orders given by them: for it would be absurd to suppose the workmen employed gave credit to the undertaking, and not to the commissioners: and though such a question is cognizable at common Law (i), yet, it may frequently, as involving intricate accounts, be more fitted for investigation in a Court of Equi-

⁽f) Morris v. Cleasby, 4 Mau. & Sel. 574.

⁽g) Exparte Hartop, 12 Ves. 352.

⁽h) Johnson v. Ogilby, 5 P.

Wms. 278; Parrot v. Wells, 2 Vern. 127.

⁽i) Eaton v. Bell, 5 Barn. & Ald. 40.

⁽k) Horsley v. Bell, Ambl.

A manager of a West Indian estate cannot claim commission whilst he is absent from the island in management of which the estate lies (1): but, though he is not entitled to commission when not personally acting, he is entitled to what he has really paid to others for the management during his absence, provided the payments be in themselves reasonable; as to which, in disputed cases, an inquiry before the Master will be directed (m). From the nature of West Indian property, considerable discretion must quired from the be left to any one who is appointed manager of an manager of an manager of an estate there. It may frequently be proper to em- West Indies: and ploy the produce on the spot, instead of remitting lowed himit to this country: the security required from him should, therefore, be, either to consign, or otherwise account for the produce. The security given by a receiver in this country does not relate to the management; but a manager of an estate in the West Indies may, in the discretion given him, make expenditures, without a previous application to the Court; as, by such delay, the estate might be ruined (n). Circumstances so different call for the application of different principles. Thus, in the West Indies, a tenant for life having supplied and claim to priority of payment, the estate with necessaries, a lien subsists (it has in respect of supbeen determined) after his death, upon the inherit- for the use of a ance (o). And though it seems, (according to a thin tation; and ne-

What commission allowed for West Indian

Nature of the security to be reestate in the the discretion al-

Rules as to lien, and claim to priplies furnished West Indian plandistinction, cessary expendiagcment.

773; S. C. in note to 1 Br. 101; Meriel v. Wymondsold, Hardr. 205.

- (1) Chambers v. Goldwin, 9 Ves. 273,
- (m) Forrest v. Elmes, 2 Mer. 70.
- (n) Morris v. Elme, 1 Ves. Jun. 139.
- (o) Marryat v. Hooke, cited 14 Ves. 442.

distinction, which Lord Eldon was dissetisfied with), that, neither consignees, nor tenants is common, have any such lien, yet, all moral justice requires, that, a West Indian estate should be holden subject to the proper expenses of management. in priority to all other claims. And, without reference to colonial Law, or usage; upon principles of natural Equity, a tenant in common of a West Indian estate, must, in respect of necessary expenditure in the management of that property. be credited, in account with the other tenants in common, with allowances that would not be made in the case of an estate to be managed in the ordinary course of husbandry. So, where a person, though not regularly appointed consignee, has been permitted by the owners to receive the consignments, from time to time, he will be allowed all such expenses as could be claimed by a consignee and manager, into whose hands the estate had been duly put by the Court itself (p).

⁽p) Scott v. Nesbitt, 14 Ves. 444, 447.

CHAPTER VI.

Frauds as between Landlord and Tenant.

UNDER this division of our subject, sundry cases. (not here introduced), might have been properly classed, had not certain particular ingreditions of the preents, in such cases, made it necessary to arrange sent branch of them under the heads appropriated to the illustra- introduced here. tion of those incidents. Whenever any equitable principle, established by decision, with respect to fraud between landlord and tenant, is not found noticed here; if that principle be mixed up with a question as to specific performance, bankruptcy, or other section of our subject separately treated; the reader is referred to such distinctive head; in order to avoid swelling this work by frequent repetitions.

other sections of our subject, not

As there is no branch of the jurisdiction of a Court of Equity more delicate than that which relieve against a forfeiture incurgoes to restrain the exercise of a legal right; such a red by breach of Court will not relieve against a forfeiture incurred compensation can by breach of covenant; unless in a case where clear compensation can be given, by which the party complaining of such breach may have the full benefit of the contract, as originally framed. This doctrine of compensation will not, in the case of will not be exforfeiture of a lease by breach of covenant, be ex- tended beyond the case of a

Equity will not relieve against a covenant, unless be made.

The doctrine of

tended

on the very doubtful principle, that, the usual clause of re-entry is merely intended to secure the payment of rent:

the rule, however, is established; and seems, to a certain extent, recognized by statute.

lord get relief against a forfeiforce the covetenants.

Proceedings at Law for breaches against which Equity does not relieve, will not

money payment; tended beyond the case of a money payment, as and to this, only rent; and this only upon the principle, that, the usual clause of re-entry was merely intended to secure the payment of rent (a): a principle, (according to the high authority of Lord Eldon,) utterly without foundation (b); for subsequent payment, with interest, by no means puts the party in exactly the same situation, as if the rent had been paid at the time stipulated (c). But the rule has been long acknowledged, and is now well established: it seems, indeed, recognized, to a certain extent, by the statute of the 4 Geo. 2, c. 28; which, by enacting, that, when a landlord has recovered in ejectment, for non-payment of rent (d), the tenant shall be barred from all relief in Equity, unless he file his bill within six months after execution perfected; supposes the previous right of the te-If a meene land- nant to relief. And where a head landlord takes an advantage, at Law, of a forfeiture, incurred by ture, he may en default of payment of rent, by the mesne landlord; nants of his sub- it does not follow that the under tenants must thereby be totally discharged, and released from their contracts: if the mesne landlord succeed in getting relief from the forfeiture, he may enforce the covenants of his sub-tenants (e).

Where a landlord is proceeding at common Law, not merely for rent, but, as he professes, also for breach of other covenants, against which the Court

(a) Wadman v. Calcraft, 10 Ves. 69.

- (b) Hill v. Barclay, 18 Ves. 58.
- (c) Hill v. Barclay, 16 Ves. 405; Reynolds v. Pitt, 19 Ves. 140.
- (d) See the construction put upon the statute in Doe v. Masters, 4 Dowl. & Ryl. 52.
- (e) Baker v. Olibeare, 2 Freem. 92.

of Chancery does not relieve; though his action in be enjoined: but ejectment will not be stopped by injunction, he execution upon a verdict for nonwill not be permitted to take out execution upon payment of rent will be stayed. a verdict for a breach of covenant by non-payment of rent; but, he must proceed on some covenant against the breach of which Equity will not relieve (f). This is the rule, where the tenant holds by an actual lease; but where he has only an resum in agreeagreement for a lease, of which contract he seeks ings at Law to recover possesthe specific performance, by a bill in Equity, pray- sion will not be ing also that proceedings against him at Law may lease, when perbe stopped; if the answer to his bill establish, tain a covenant that, the lease he seeks must contain a covenant, which has been broken, of a nawhich has already been violated, of such a nature which Equity that the Court of Chancery would not relieve does not relieve; against the breach; the proceedings at Law will not be stayed, in order to enforce performance of the agreement for a lease, which, when executed, the lessor might determine by an ejectment, brought upon a breach against which no relief could be had:—as, for instance, parting with the as, parting with premises without licence, against which relief is without licence. never given (g). A parol licence for this purpose is insufficient, unless given as a snare, and under circumstances which amount to fraud (h). But, Though Equity though a Court of Equity will not do so fruitless an agreement for an act, as to continue an injunction with a view a lease, where it may immediately to a specific performance of an agreement which, be set aside;

Where a lease rests in agreestayed; if the fected, would con-

will not execute

⁽f) Davis v. West, 12 Ves. 476.

⁽g) Lovat v. Lard Ranelagh, 3 Ves. & Bea. 29, 31; Sanders v. Pope, 12 Ves. 292; Davies

v. Moreton, 2 Cha. Ca. 127: see. however, an exception, Cox v. Brown, 1 Ch. Rep. 170.

⁽h) Richardson v. Evans, 8 Mad. 218.

yet, when acts amounting to a waver of the forfeiture are made out, specific performance of the agreement, and protection against the forfeiture at Law, may be obtained.

when executed, may be immediately put an end to. by a clause of re-entry, which must necessarily be introduced into the lease sought to be obtained (i): the question may be very different, when intermediate acts have passed, amounting to a waver of the forfeiture: in such a case, the Court would not shut out the tenant from an opportunity of shewing those circumstances which amount in Equity to a waver; and, if they are made out, may give him the benefit of them, by decreeing a specific performance; and protecting him against the forfeiture at Law (k): but receipt of rent, alone, will not amount to a waver in such case (1).

Alienation once made with licence, determines the condition.

at the carrying on of a particular trade, does not amount to a general licence for any trade.

It has been long settled at Law, that, an alienation once made by licence determines the condition; so that no subsequent alienation can give right of entry to the lessor (m): which determination, though termed by Lord Eldon an extraordi-But, connivance nary one, has been followed in Equity (n). where a lease contains a covenant against using premises as a shop, or warehouse, without licence in writing; a mere implied connivance at the carrying on of one particular trade, without the permission of the lessor in writing, can never be held to amount to a general licence for any trade: and a Court of Equity will not enter into a comparison as to what trades are most offensive and objection-

⁽i) Wetherall v. Geering, 12 Ves. 512.

⁽k) Gourlay v. Duke of Somerset, 1 Ves. & Bea. 73.

⁽¹⁾ Boardman v. Mostyn, 6 Ves. 472: see post, p. 207.

⁽m) Dumpor's case, 4 Rep. 119; Hitchcock v. Fox, 1 Roll's Rep. 70: see post, p. 205.

⁽n) Brummel v. Macpherson, 14 Ves. 175; Jones v. Jones, 12 Ves. 191.

able (e). And, it is quite clear, a covenant against underletting, will preclude an assignment (p); derletting, and of though the converse does not hold (q).

Against a forfeiture by breach of covenant to keep the premises insured, a Court of Equity will forfeiture by not relieve (r); nor, according to the latest and breach of covenant to insure; preferable authorities, where the forfeiture is in- or to repair. curred by breach of covenant to repair (s). decisions last referred to, seem to have greatly Sanders v. Pope is greatly shaken; shaken Lord Erskine's judgment in Sanders v. or, rather, over-Pope(t); and as to the argument used in support of that case; namely, that, as the premises had not suffered in the mean time, it would be for the advantage of the landlord, that, the money should be laid out, in repairs, at a later period of the lease than that stipulated: Lord Eldon has forcibly observed, that, "the difficulty upon this doctrine is, that there is no mutuality in it. The tenant can-upon this prinnot be compelled to repair. The Court of Chan- tenant cannot be cery (according to Lord Thurlow (a),) would not pair by a Court entertain a bill for that purpose; and is the te- of Equity, which does not entertain nant to have the option, against the will of the a bill for that landlord, to keep the lease upon those terms; from therefore, there time to time breaking the covenant which he can- tuality in relievnot be compelled to perform? If, the premises ing the tenant.

nant against unassigning.

Equity will not relieve against

ciple, that the purpose; and would be no mu.

having

- (o) Macher v. The Foundling Hospital, 1 Ves. & Bea. 191.
- (p) Greenaway v. Adams, 12 Ves. 400.
- (q) Crusoe v. Bugby, 2 W. Bla. 767; Boardman v. Mostyn, 6 Ves. 471.
- (r) Rolfe v. Harris, 2 Pr. 206, 212; White v. Warner, 2
- Meriv. 460; Reynolds v. Pitt, 19 Ves. 143.
- (s) Hill v. Barclay, 18 Ves. 56; Bracebridge v. Buckley, 2 Pr. 200.
 - (t) Reported in 12 Ves. 282.
- (u) In Lucas v. Comerford, 1 Ves. Jun. 235: and see Moseley v. Virgin, 3 Ves. 185.

A requisition on the part of the the repairs completed, would make the case stronger against the tenant, if he refused to comon the supposition, that, such requisition is necessary, that,

the case of Sanders v. Pope can ly with other decisions upon

but, it should seem, that, where no stipulation is made for a previous demand of a forfeiture can be incurred; there no demand is necessary:

this subject:

having been suffered to fall out of repair, and the landlord making the requisition to repair, the tenant refused to comply; he could have no pretence for applying to a Court of Equity (w)." landlord to have fact of a requisition, on the part of the landlord, to have the repairs completed, would, no doubt, make the case stronger against the tenant, if he should still refuse to comply: but is ply: and it is only such requisition necessary? is the landlord bound to exercise such vigilance? and is the tenant, who must be as fully conusant of the covenant by which he has bound himself, as his landlord: and better acquainted in most cases, with the state of repair of the premises; to wait until he is expressly called upon to perform, what he must know is his duty? If these questions are stand, consistent answered in the affirmative, then, indeed, the case of Sanders v. Pope may be distinguished from the other determinations upon this subject; and may, perhaps, stand consistently together with them: for in Sanders v. Pope, it does not appear, that, there had been any dealing by request and refusal, between the lessor and the lessee, in the period during which, by the express covenant, the money ought to have been applied: and the lessee offered to lay out the full sum, afterwards. should seem, that, where no express stipulation is made in a contract for a previous demand of fulfulfilment, before filment, before a forfeiture shall be incurred; there, no demand is necessary: the covenant is, itself, notice; and, in the words of Lord Hardwicke (x),

> (w) Hill v. Barclay, 16 Ves. (x) Chauncy v. Graydon, 2 405. Atk. 619. So, at common Law,

"where nobody is bound to give notice, the parties must themselves take notice." The rule, that. notice must be given to an heir at law, of a condition in a will working a forfeiture (y), stands upon a different ground: the heir at law, upon the death of his ancestor, claims by descent, and is not gation can be presupposed to know of the devise upon condition: sumed in favor of a lessee, who has but no such ignorance of his obligation can be pre-bound himself sumed in favor of a lessee, who has bound himself nants. by his own covenants (x).

Since no ignoby his own cove.

Equity, as we have seen, will not relieve against Noreliefagainst a forfeiture by assignment of a lease, without li-signment, withcence, contrary to covenant (a). Nor, where the out licence; or breach of coveinjury arising from non-performance of a covenant nant in prejudice of the inheritcannot be estimated by damages; or tends to the ance. prejudice of the inheritance, by affording evidence of a prescriptive right of way over the land (b).

forfeiture by as-

Lord Thurlow, in Lucas v. Comerford, before cited, inclined to think, that, the Court of Chan-force a covenant cery could no more superintend a rebuilding, than to rebuild, where a repair: but his Lordship's words must be con-not a clearly defined one; sidered with reference to the case before him: and, from the report in Brown (c), it appears, that, the covenant, then under debate, was by no means a clearly

Equity cannot

to an action of debt upon an award, defendant admitted the arbitrement, but pleaded, in bar to the action, that, plaintiff had not required him to pay the money. The Court adjudged this to be no good plea; that the defendant was bound, at his peril, to pay the money; and that no request was necessary on the part of the plaintiff. Brett's case.

Owen, 7.

- (y) Burleton v. Humfrey, Ambl. 259.
- (z) Bracebridge v. Buckley, 2 Price, 213; Doe v. Masters, 4 Dowl. & Ryl. 45.
- (a) Wafer v. Mocatto, 9 Mod. 112: see ante, p. 202.
- (b) Descarlett v. Dennett, 9 Mod. 22.
 - (c) 3 Br. 165.

this would be open to all the objections upon which the Court of Chancery has declined conducting a repair;

but, when the agreement is so distinct, that the Court can describe the buildfor the report of a specific performance might be decreed.

If the execution of a renewal of a ties; Equity, when there has been no fraudupart of the lessee, will give him relief.

a clearly defined one; no certain sum was to be laid out; no particular plan was agreed upon; and it was only stipulated that the premises should be substantially rebuilt: which contract might call for very different scales of expenditure, according to the different interpretations which might be put on the vague epithet "substantial." The conduct of a rebuilding so undefined, would be open to all the objections upon which the Court of Chancery has declined conducting a repair: and Lord Thurlow's refusal of the application, under such circumstances, is not at all impugned by the qualification laid down by Lord Rosslyn (d), (following Lord Hardwicke's opinion (e),) that, if the transaction and agreement be clear and explicit. perhaps there would not be much difficulty to deing as a subject cree a specific performance; but, when the agree-Master, perhaps, ment is loose and undefined, and it is not expressed. distinctly, what the building is to be, so that the Court could describe it, as a subject for the report of a Master, the jurisdiction could not apply.

If the execution of a renewal of a lease for lives lease for lives be be delayed by the lessor, or even by the mutual dedelayed, even by the mutual de-fault of both parties, a Court of Equity, when there fault of both par- has been no fraud, or culpable laches, on the part of the lessee, will give him relief: taking care, lent lackes on the however, that he nominates lives which were in existence at the time when the renewal ought to have been completed (f). This seems the near-

est

⁽d) Moseley v. Virgin, 3 Ves. 3 Atk. 515,

^{184.} (f) Lord Kensington v. (e) City of London v. Nash, Phillips, 5 Dow, 72; Pritchard

est approximation to justice which the case admits; but the advantage is all on the side of the lessee: he has, by such an arrangement, escaped all the casualties which might have occurred in the interval of delay: and though he must not take new lives, it by no means follows, that, the lives he would, originally, have nominated, have not, already, all fallen in.

It has been intimated, that, when a tenant has If a landlord, forfeited his lease by any breach of covenant, and in ejectment, perthe landlord has recovered against him in eject- mit the tenant to continue the ocment; but, instead of entering into the occupation cupation, and to be at expense himself, he permits the tenant to retain the pos- in improvements; session; to cultivate the land; and to improve it, port the tenant's perhaps at considerable expense; it would be a fraud, and against conscience, afterwards to dispossess him: and a Court of Equity would be disposed to presume every thing that was necessary to protect the tenant's possession (g). This seems in unison with the cases which have decided, that, the lease: and a landlord's waver of forfeiture sets up the lease (h): acceptance of rent, with notice and as acceptance of rent, with notice of the for- of the forfeiture, is a waverthereof. feiture, is a waver thereof, even at common Law(i); the tenant, by tendering his rent, at the earliest period at which a payment becomes due, may, if it be accepted, thus secure the renewed validity of his lease; or, by its refusal, be put upon his guard against incurring expense. The tenant's equity

after recovering Equity will sup-

For, waver of forfeiture sets up

But, a tenant to has no equity to

v. Ovey, 1 Jac. & Walk. 404; (h) Nesbitt v. Tredennick, 1 O'Herlihy v. Hedges, 1 Sch. & Ba. & Beat. 32: see ante, p. 202. Lef. 128. (i) Roe v. Harrison, 2 T. R. (g) Hume v. Kent, 1 Ba. & 431.

Beat. 561.

be reimbursed, by continuance of occupation, for any expenses prematurely incurred by him, after forfeiture, before a reasonable time allowed re-entry:

such a claim would be less of a tenant laying expectation of a renewal.

If the person really entitled to possession will encourage the occupier of an estate to expend his money in improvements; it would be fraudulent to turn him out.

The inadequacy of rent reservof fraud in letting charity estates than in other instances.

to be reimbursed, by a continuance of his occupation, for any expenses prematurely incurred, by improvements undertaken after forfeiture, and before a reasonable time allowed for the landlord's re-entry, is quite another question: if that were to be for the landlord's admitted, it might, indeed, justify the sarcastic remark of a learned Judge, that, "it is a common equity to improve a man out of possession of his estate(k)." It would be a less tenable claim, than that tenable than that of a tenant laying out money, in the expectation of a out money, in the renewal of his term; who cannot, by such means, give the character of a right to his imprudent expectations (l). No doubt, if the person really entitled to possession will encourage the occupier of the estate to expend his money in improvements: or, if he will even look on and suffer such expenditure, without apprizing the occupier of his intention to dispute the title to possession, and will afterwards endeavour to avail himself of such fraud; upon this ground of fraud, the jurisdiction of a Court of Equity will attach on the case (m).

In letting charity estates, security of the rent is ed, is less a badge the first object to be regarded; and, in such cases, inadequacy of rent reserved is less a badge of fraud than it would be in almost any other instance. tenant, therefore, who has got a lease of a charity estate at too low a rent, is not to be turned out, if

⁽k) Kenney v. Browne, 3 Ridgw. P. C. 519: and see Forster v. Hale, 3 Ves. 718.

⁽l) Pilling v. Armitage, 12 Ves. 85; Dann v. Spurrier, 7

Ves. 236; Robertson v. St. John, 2 Br. 140.

⁽m) Kenney v. Browne, 3 Ridgw. P. C. 518; Norway v. Roe, 19 Ves. 159; Matts v. Hawkins, 5 Taunt. 23.

it appear that he has acted fairly and honestly. The only ground for so dealing with him, would be some evidence of corrupt dealing, or reasonable presumption of collusion. If, for instance, the tenant be a relation of the trustee who has the letting of the estate, that would be a circumstance to justify suspicion (n).

A lease granted in consideration of a loan, cannot, on principles of public policy, be allowed to stand; and relief will be given by setting it aside: principles of public policy, be set for Equity considers such leases as obtained, in aside: most cases, by an unfair advantage taken by the lessee of the distresses of the lessor; and to be a mere evasion of the statutes against usury (o): which, whatever may be thought of their policy, must not, whilst they remain on the statute book, be counteracted by artful devices. The lessor un- the lessor, in such der such circumstances is, generally speaking, not ly, not a free a free agent (p). Still, as the taint of usury, in agent: these cases, is only matter of inference; if it can but, if no advanbe clearly made out, that, no advantage has been taken by the lestaken by the lessee; but, on the contrary, that, the see; and the circumstances rencircumstances are such as render it unconscion-derit unconscionable on the part of the lessor to seek to set aside of the lessor to the transaction; and that it would be a manifest the transaction; hardship on the lessee; a Court of Equity will not interfere. interfere (q): otherwise, the doctrine of discountenancing leases coupled with loans might be con-

A lease granted in consideration of a loan, will, on

cases, is, general-

tage has been able on the part seek to set aside

- (n) Ex parte Skinner, in re Lawford Charity, 2 Mer. 457; See the heads of "Trust," and of "Charity."
- (o) Morony v. O'Dea, 1 Ba. & Beat 116; Corbet v. Sea-
- grave, 2 Ba. & Beat. 101.
- (p) Browne v. O'Dea, 1 Sch. & Lef. 119; Drew v. Power. 1 Sch. & Lef. 198.

verted.

(q) Molloy v. Irwin, 1 Sch. & Lef. 313.

verted, by dishonest landlords, into an instrument of greater fraud than that which it was designed to prevent (r).

The assignee of a lease, who is only liable to the

The assignee of a lease may deof estate, by an

al lessee, notwith one excepa bankrupt lesnees accept the lease.

stroy the privity covenants therein contained by privity of estate, or estate, by an may destroy that privity, and with it the consequent liability, by an assignment over (s); even to The case is different as to the orig-But the origin- a beggar (t). withstanding his inal lessee, who, notwithstanding his assignment, assignment over, remains liable to pay the rent and perform his all the covenants: other covenants (u): an exception, however, to tion, in favor of this rule is created by the statute 49 Geo. 3. c. 121. see, whose assig- s. 19, in favor of a bankrupt lessee, whose assignees accept the lease as part of the bankrupt's estate and effects: this clause, of the act cited, was founded on obvious principles of justice; a bankrupt deprived of all property in a lease ought to be relieved from claims upon him in respect thereof (v).

A tenant can only resist payment of rent, by shewing that he has relinquished the possession, legally; or that another tenant has been accepted.

making a parol adverse claim,

When the relation of landlord and tenant has been once established (w), the tenant cannot resist a demand of rent, unless he can shew that he was legally entitled to guit the possession, and that he has done so in an unqualified manner; or that the landlord has clearly accepted another person as A tenant, by tenant, in his stead (x). On the other hand, s tenant, is not, necessarily, incapacitated from continuing

- (r) O'Brien v. Grierson, 2 Ba. & Beat. 332.
- (s) Chancellor v. Poole, 2 Dougl. 764; Buckland v. Hall, 8 Ves. 95.
- (t) Pitcher v. Tovey, 1 Salk. 81; Taylor v. Shum, 1 Bos. & Pull. 23.
- (u) Staines v. Morris, 1 Ves. & Bea. 11, 14.
- (v) Onslow v. Corrie, 2 Mad. 346,
- (w) Townsend v. Davis, Forrest's Exch. Rep. 124.
- (x) Ward v. Mason, 9 Price, 294.

tinuing to hold possession under a written lease, does not absolutemerely because he has, by parol, asserted an adverse equitable claim to the premises to be vested in himself, but, without absolutely renouncing the relation of tenant (y).

There may be a covenant for almost any thing: and a covenant against alienation without licence is as old as Dumpor's case (x): but this by no means or assign, is held proves such a covenant in a lease to be an usual usual" one; one. A contract, therefore, for a lease containing Chancery have the "common and usual" covenants; though, in sometimes been expressly conone case in the Exchequer it was held to embrace trary. a covenant not to underlease, or assign (a); has, repeatedly, received a different construction in the Court of Chancery (b): though, in other cases it has been considered a proper subject for a reference, and inquiry (e).

In the Exchequer, a covenant not to underlease a " common and the decisions in

A clause, framed to obviate the consequences of bankruptcy, providing that, the lease shall minute on the determine upon the bankruptcy of the tenant, tenant's bank-ruptcy, is legal. is now determined to be legal; and is certain-The rights of creditors un- Assignees unly prudent (d). der a commission (who may have been induced of bankrupt, may to give credit to the bankrupt on the faith of his enforce an agreement to grant a known agreement for a lease), afford a principle lease to the bankupon which the assignees may enforce the execu- ing: but, this is

A clause, that a lease shall ter-

der a commission rupt; if in writonly in favor of tion creditors.

- (y) Rees v. King, Forrest's Exch. Rep. 22. See Walters v. Upton, cited in Coop. 92.
- (x) 4 Rep. 119: See ante, pp. 201, 202, 203.
- (a) Folkingham v. Croft, 3 Anstr. 700.
 - (b) Henderson v. Hay, 3 Br.
- 682; Church v. Brown, 15 Ves. 264, 271.
- (c) Jones v. Jones, 12 Ves. 190; Boardman v. Mostyn, 6 Ves. 471.
- (d) Church v. Brown, 15 Ves. 268; Wetherall v. Geering, 12 Ves. 512.

tion of such agreement (e); if reduced into writing (f): But, where those rights do not interfere. the insolvency of the proposed tenant would be a weighty objection to a specific performance of an agreement for a lease (a).

The construction of the actual covenants of a lease, must be the same in Equity as at Law;

The construction of the actual covenants of a lease must be the same in Equity as at Law (h); that is to say, every covenant is to be expounded with regard to its context; the exposition must be ex antecedentibus et consequentibus, and according to the reasonable sense and construction of the words: proceeding upon this rule, it has been determined, that, if, in consideration of a fine, and certain rent, premises are demised for twenty-one years; and the lessor covenants, that, on request of the lessee before the term expires, he, the lessor, will grant a new lease of the premises, for the like fine; for the like term of twenty-one years, at venants, contain-ed in the then exarticles, as in the then executing indenture are contained: this covenant is satisfied by tendering a new lease containing all the former covenants, except the covenant for future renewal. has been held, that, if the continued grant of successive leases, and not a single renewal only, had been intended, words would naturally have been used distinctly marking the right of repeated renewal. A different construction would lead. virtually.

a covenant to granta new lease, with all the coecuting indenture, is satisfied by tendering a new lease containing all the covenants in the former, except that for future renewal:

for, a different construction

Ves. 692.

^{95;} O'Herlihy v. Hedges, 1 (e) Stat. 49 Geo. 3, c. 121, s. 19. Sch. & Lef. 130.

⁽f) Ex parte Sutton, 2 Rose. 86.

⁽g) Buckland v. Hall, 8 Ves.

⁽h) | Iggulden v. May, 9 Ves. 329; Eaton v. Lyon, 3

tually, to a grant in perpetuity; and where no con-would lead, virsideration appears for a grant of such an extensive in perpetuity. nature: this cannot be the reasonable construction. Possible cases may, no doubt, be put, in which such a grant would by no means be unreasonable may, under circumstances, be or absurd; but in such cases the intention of the notunreasonable; but, then, the inparties may easily be expressed, without ambigui-tention of the ty (i): and where this is not done, a Court of expressed with-Equity cannot be certain of doing justice by enforcing a contract doubtfully expressed. better, even for avoiding fraud, to suffer a party fer a party to escape out of a to escape out of a contract which he may have intended to make, where such an agreement is am- tended to make, biguously expressed, than to enforce it, upon a upon a conjecture conjecture that such was the intent of the parties. ing. The Court may fail to do justice in a particular case, by refusing to act upon equivocal words; but, on the other hand, if they ever went beyond the clear effect of the terms of a contract, this might induce persons who intend fraud, to use ambiguous words, for the purpose of enabling them to accomplish such fraudulent intention (k).

The benefit of a covenant for perpetual renewal, on request within a given time previous to the a covenant for perpetual renewexpiration of each then subsisting lease, may be at may be forfeit-ed, by neglecting lost by default in making the request within the to make the represcribed period. Possible circumstances may,

Such a grant out ambiguity:

It is it is better to sufthan to enforce it

> The benefit of quest in due time:

in

⁽i) Iggulden v. May, 7 East, 242; S. C. 9 Ves. 330; Willan v. Willan, 16 Ves. 84; Moore v. Foley, 6 Ves. 237; Baynham v. Guy's Hospital, 8 Ves. 298; Tritton v. Foote, 2

Cox, 174; Hyde v. Skinner, 2 P. Wms. 197; Kirkham v. Chadwick, 13 Ves. 549, 551.

⁽k) Harnett v. Yielding, 2 Sch. & Lef. 558.

in particular cases; excuse the lackes; but, generally speaking, the lessor cannot continue bound by such covenant, upon the tardy application of a lessee who has neglected the conditions with which a lessee can never it was coupled. There would be no mutuality in of enforcing the such a dealing, if it were left to the option of the contract when he pleases, leaving lessee alone to enforce the contract when he pleashimself, in the ed but to leave himself free as long as he found it ed, but to leave himself free as long as he found it convenient (1).

have the option mean time, free.

Interests carved out of an old lease a new one.

The legal effect of taking a new lease is a surmust not be de render of the old one; but, to some intents, a restroyed by taking newed lease may be considered as a continuance of the original lease;—that is, for the protection of legal interests carved out of it: which, when once well created, the Law does not permit to be destroyed (m).

If a tenant for life, not having a special leasing power, grant a lease for ninetyminable upon a covenant tosubthe lessor's son, remainder-man;

If a tenant for life, not having a special leasing power, grant a lease for ninety-nine years, determinable upon three lives, with a covenant that, nine years, deter- upon the death of any one of the persons on whose three lives, with lives the lease is held, he will, on request being stitute a new life, made, grant a new lease, for another term of ninewhen one drops; the covenant will ty-nine years, determinable with the life of an adnot be binding on ditional person to be substituted in the place of who succeeds as the party deceased, such renewed lease to be held under the same yearly rent, covenants, conditions, and agreements as in the then executing demise mentioned; these covenants and obligations of the tenant for life will, of course, not be binding upon his son, who upon his father's decease succeeds to

⁽¹⁾ The City of London v. (m) Collett v. Hooper, 13 Mitford, 14 Ves. 58. Ves. 260.

the estate, not as heir or claiming through his father, but as a remainder-man under a settlement. Nor even although his will the son's assent to the terms of the agreement, if assent to the indorsed on such lease, subsequently to its execu-dorsed on such lease, subsequenttion, be binding on the son: such indorsement will lyto its execution: be considered as a mere memorandum, quite as distinct from the lease, as if it had been written on a separate parchment: at best, it can only be a voluntary gratuitous consent to the lease, and, as being without consideration, a mere nudum pactum, even if it was not extorted by an undue exercise of the father's influence. Had the son, indeed, by fraudu- Had the son, inlently holding out expectations which he did not deed, whilst the intend to fulfil, induced the lessee to come into was depending, induced the lessee to come into was depending. terms which he would otherwise not have agreed see to come into to, such conduct would have raised an equity would not otheragainst the son: but, in the case put, it is clear to; such conduct no such fraud could have been practised; the would have raised an equity lessee having first taken a lease to which the son against the son. was no party, and the invalidity of the covenants whereof, to bind the son, the lessee shewed his perfect knowledge of, by the very act of obtaining the son's subsequent gratuitous, and therefore inoperative, assent (n).

terms which he

If a tenant be in arrear for rent, and also indebted both to his landlord, and to another person deration of a surfor sums due by simple contract: and the landlord sees by his tenant, agree in writing, that, if the tenant will give up the and a bill of sale of his effects; to occupation of the premises, in respect of which the discharge a debt rent is due, and also execute a bill of sale of all his nant to another;

agree, in considue from the teeffects; this promise,

⁽n) Dowling v. Mill, 1 Mad. 48: and see Waring v. Mackreth, Forrest's Exch. Rep. 137. 549; Hunt v. Caren, Nels.

which Equity will enforce:

though not made effects; he, the landlord, will discharge the specito that creditor himself, raises a fied debt of the other creditor by simple contract, trust in his favor, in the first instance; this is such an agreement as a Court of Equity will specifically execute. engagement of the landlord to discharge the amount stated to be due to the other, named, creditor; though not made to that creditor himself, raises a good trust for him, to the extent stipulated for: to claim a larger sum, as being that actu-If the landlord, ally due, would be a fraud on the landlord. before the other the other hand, if the landlord, after having entered into such an agreement with his tenant, but ferent terms to before the other creditor is aware of it, propose mm, acceptance thereof will not different terms to that creditor, which are accepted, in the absence of all information as to the first concluded arrangement; this would be fraudulent on the part of the landlord; and the acceptance of the second proposal, under such circumstances, would be no bar to the other creditor's recurring to the first, and more advantageous, agreement (o).

creditor is aware of such agreement, propose difbe binding.

sequent distress.

When a landlord has distrained for rent, and A note given to prevent a sale the tenant, in order to prevent a sale, has given a under a distress, must be first dis- promissory note for the arrears then due; in which charged by the proceeds of a sub- note a third person has joined, as security, should the landlord distrain again for rent accruing due after the period to which the note referred; if the proceeds of such second distress be not sufficient to satisfy both the demand in respect of the promissory note, and also the rent subsequently accrued, they must be first applied in discharge of the note, or rather of the debt for which the note was given: since, whilst such note remained unpaid,

(o) Gregory v. Williams, 3 Meriv. 588.

paid, it was merely a collateral security, not affecting the landlord's remedy by distress (p). If a bill has been filed to restrain a landlord from distrain- against distress for rent. ing for rent, should it appear, by production of the attachment, that the landlord is in contempt for not answering, upon a proper affidavit of the merits of the case, an injunction may issue before answer (q).

Injunction

With respect to a tenant's right to dispose of Atenant's right manure, straw, &c. off the premises, the custom of to carry manure and produce off the country may be an important consideration (r), the premises, depends on the cuswhere those points have not been provided for by tom of the councontract (s); but, the question can have no place has been no writwhere there has been a written agreement. And ten agreement. And An agreement where the terms of such an agreement are, that the that an in-coming tenant shall manin-coming tenant shall manage the estate according age a farm, and quit it, as the preto the mode, and quit it in the condition, in which ceding tenant the immediately preceding tenant managed and quitted it; means quitted it; this must be understood to mean,—as the permitted it to be landlord himself permitted them to manage and actually managed and quitted: The preceding tenants may have agreed to not that coveabide by and perform the covenants of a lease ex- though entered pired precedently to their tenancy; but, even sup- enforced against posing the in-coming tenant to have been aware shall be insisted of those covenants and that agreement, still, his on against the engagement was only to manage and quit the estate, as his immediate precursors in the tenancy had, by the landlord's permission, actually managed and quitted the premises: and if they were suf-

try, when there

An agreement nants which, into, were never new tenant.

fered

⁽p) Palfrey v. Baker, 3 Price, 574.

⁽q) Heming v. Emuss, 1 Price, 386.

⁽r) Onslow ∇ . – Ves. 174. See next chapter.

⁽s) Kimpton v. Eve, 2 Ves. & Bea. 353.

fered to remove, and did remove, manure, straw: &c. off the lands, the in-coming tenant has a right to do the same. The landlord, under such circumstances, has estopped himself from complaining of acts which have grown out of his own permission, and are no violation of the in-coming tenant's agreement (t).

In what case a decree in the naniny be had against a tenant.

If a tenant covenant to leave stock of a certain ture of quia timet amount upon the premises, should a fair ground of suspicion arise that he does not mean to perform his covenant in that respect; although compensation in damages might be had for a breach, yet, the agreement having relation to the sort of enjoyment for which the landlord has stipulated, after the expiration of the term; a decree in the nature of quia timet may, it seems, be obtained (a). And, by a statute (v) passed for the promotion of good husbandry, and for preserving covenants between the owners and occupiers of land let to farm; than the tenant it is enacted, that, in case the tenants should become insolvent, their assignees shall not deal with the crops on the farm otherwise than the tenant might lawfully have done: but this act does not bind the Crown, when the crops are seized under prerogative process (w).

The assignees of an insolvent tenant cannot deal with the crops otherwise might lawfully have done.

A tenant covenanting to repair,

A tenant who has entered into a covenant to reexcept in case of pair, with an exception in case of damage by fire; damage by fire, cannot, by force of this exception, (should such

> (t) Liebenrood v. Vines, 1 (v) Stat. 56 Geo. 3, c. 50, s. 11.

Meriv. 18.

⁽u) Ward v. Duke of Buckingham, cited 10 Ves. 161; S. C. 3 Br. P. C. 93, (fol. edit.)

⁽w) The King v. Osbourne, & Price. 98.

an accident happen), protect himself, either at independent co-Law (x), or in Equity (y), against the effect of a separate, independent, covenant to pay the rent during the term. And where the tenant has bound burnt; and the tenant, who has himself, in general terms, to leave the premises in bound himself to good repair; if a casualty by fire occur, he must ses in repair, must rebuild (x).

. If a conveyance be executed by a person out of Aman must not possession, to a person who, at the time, holds part accept a conveyof the estate, so conveyed, under a lease from the of possession, when he holds party through whom those in possession claim; part of the estate the parties to the conveyance will be deemed guil- tenant under a tv of a fraud; the person obtaining it having no-claiming by ad. tice that the property was claimed by another, and vene title: being himself in possession under the title of that other. The covin would avoid the transaction even at common Law (a). A Court of Equity the relative situwill never permit the relative situation of landlord and tenant must and tenant to be fraudulently made use of, to pro- of, to protect tect rights adverse to that relation. When, there rights adverse to fore, by default of the landlord, judgment in ejectment has passed against him, and the tenant has attorned to the party who recovered; should a new ejectment be brought by the landlord, it would be held against conscience for the tenant to set up his lease, not for the purpose of protecting his own possession, but, for the purpose of excluding the landlord from whom he received his lease; and

leave the premirebuild, if casualty by fire occur.

so conveyed, as third person

⁽z) Doe v. Sandham, 1 T. R. (z) Pym v. Blackburn, 8 Ves. 710.

⁽y) Holtzapfell v. Baker, 18 (a) Underwood v. Lord Cour-Ves. 119; Hare v. Groves, 3 town, 2 Sch. & Lef. 63. Anstr. 693, 699.

not file an interpleading bill ly to the lease, given color of title to another.

and to support the title of those to whom he has attorned, against his landlord. Before a new ejectment is brought, a bill may be filed to restrain the lease from being set up, as a defence on the trial at Law; and the injunction will be extended, not only to the tenant, but, to any third person who might take advantage of the tenant's impro-A tenant can per act (b). It would be equally inadmissible, as a general principle, that a tenant should be at liagainst, or question the title of, berty to file an interpleading bill against his landhis landlord: un-lord, merely on the ground that a stranger sets up less the laudlord has, subsequent- an adverse title to the estate (c): for, it would be extremely mischievous, if a tenant were allowed, (in his own right, or that of others,) to call in question the title of the person under whom he holds (d). But, this general rule has exceptions; for instance, where the landlord has by his own act given a color of title to another, subsequently to the lease, he may thereby have entangled the tenant in embarrassments, which a bill of interpleader may be the most proper mode of quieting (e).

A person is not remitted to his mere right, when he obtains a qualified possession by contract:

If a person having the mere right obtain a qualified possession by contract, he cannot be remitted to his mere right; but must hold the possession according to the title of the party from whom he, unwisely, received it by such contract, instead but Equity might of recovering it by lawful means (f). A Court of

interfere, if a par-

(b) Baker v. Mellish, 10 Ves. 550, 553; Saunders v. Lord Annesley, 2 Sch. & Lef. 96.

- (c) Dungey v. Angrove, 2 Ves. Jun. 304; Johnson v. Atkinson, 3 Anstr. 800.
 - (d) Smith v. Target, 2 Anstr.
- 531; Homan v. Moore, 4 Price,

Equity

- (e) Cowtan v. Williams, 9 Ves, 107; Clarke v. Byne, 13 Ves. 386.
- (f) Saunders v. Lord Annesley, 2 Sch. & Lef. 103, 98.

Equity would, indeed, interfere, in a case where tyclearly entitled it was indisputably clear, that, the fee simple was were induced, by in a party who had been induced by fraud to ac-fraud, to accept a chattel interest. cept a chattel interest from the person holding tortious possession of the estate (a).

to the fee simple

Where tenants, by agreements between themselves, throw difficulties in the way of the land- in the way of a lord's title, he has a just claim to the assistance of landlord's title; Equity will aid Equity to enable him to recover possession when him. the leases shall expire (h).

Where tenants

The fraudulent act of a tenant, betraying the possession of his landlord, by disclaiming tenure of title in a third under him, and admitting title in a third person, person, will not affect the title of will not affect the landlord's title, so long as he the landlord, so long as he has a right to consider the person holding pos-right to consider session as his tenant (i). But, as he has a right ing as his tenant. to punish the act of the tenant in disavowing the tenure, by proceeding to eject him notwithstanding his lease; if he will not proceed for the forfeiture, he may, by acquiescence, lose the right to affect the claims of third persons; for there must be a limitation to demands, on the ground that the possession was betrayed, as well as in all other cases (k).

A tenant's fraudulent admission the person hold-

Where an ejectment has been brought, at the trial of which the tenant has made default; and is a trial in ejectemploying the interval of possession, thus secured, ment, may be restrained from in doing all the mischief in his power, by commit- employing the ting wilful waste upon, or removing manure away session, so secur-

A tenant who interval of posed, in committing from, waste.

⁽g) S. C. p. 101.

Price, 154.

⁽h) S. C. p. 108.

⁽k) Hovenden v. Lord Annes-

⁽i) Meredith v. Gilpin, 6 ley, 2 Sch. & Lef. 625.

from, the estate: he will be restrained by injunction (l).

A demise of copyhold lands for one year, and

Demise of copyhold for one year thereof for a longer term, if the cence:

and at the end of that term for thirteen years more, if the lord will give licence, is, in the first inlord will give li- stance, only a lease from year to year, not working a forfeiture, where, by custom, a lease for fourteen years would have that effect. And as the licence of the lord is, in the case put, a condition precedent; if that licence be not granted, ejectment may be maintained at the end of the year. will any equity arise, in favor of the tenant, from ed the copyhold- the fact that the lord has, with knowledge of the terms of the demise, purchased the copyholder's terms of the de- interest: but he may evict the tenant in possession (m).

the lord may evict the tenant, if he has purchaser's interest, though with knowledge of the

Whatever remedy is reservbe in arrear to a Equity will not relieve; if the landlord make the sum fixed is due.

A Court of Equity is never disposed to intered to a landlord. fere, brevi stante, between landlord and tenant; and in case the tenant if any remedy has been reserved to a landlord, by certain amount, covenant, whenever the tenant shall be in arrear to a certain amount: the Court will not interfere, an affidavit, that if a clear, distinct, affidavit be produced, that the particular sum is due: but, if the landlord will not make such an affidavit, the defendant may obtain such relief as the case appears to require (n).

Land demised,

If a lease contain a proviso, that, should the with a proviso, that, if wanted for land be wanted for building, the tenant shall debuilding, it shall liver up possession; the landlord cannot, in Equi-

⁽¹⁾ Lathrop v. Marsh, 5 Ves. 261; Pulteney v. Shelton, 5 Ves. 260, note: see the next chapter.

⁽m) Lufkin v. Nunn, 11 Ves. 174.

⁽n) Nutbrown v. Thornton, 10 Ves. 162.

ty, enforce this stipulation on the mere ground of not be resemed having entered into a treaty to demise the land for ty for granting a the purpose of being built upon; without alleging any actual agreement to that effect (o). But, when by covenant it has been stipulated, that, the landlord may resume any part of the demised premises, should be "minded" to set, or sell, the same for building upon; and he has actually resumed the premises, with a bond fide intention to build; the tenants will have no equity to recover the same. although that intention should not be finally acted upon (p).

upon a mere tresbuilding lease.

If a man take a lease of lands adjoining to his dwelling-house, and, with the consent of the lessor, or all trees and shrubs, will not throw part of the demised premises into his orna- authorize a lessor to cut down trees, mental grounds, going to considerable expense in the planting of permanent improvements, in planting and other- ment, he has enwise; though the lessor may have reserved, in the amplest manner, all trees, and timber-like trees, and all shrubs that may be planted on the premises; yet, after having stood by and seen the improvements going forward, giving at least an implied assent to them, he will be enjoined from injuring the beauty of the grounds, by cutting down the trees (q): for, where a man encourages another to lay out money, upon the supposition that he never means to exercise his legal rights, Equity will not permit him to exercise them (r).

A reservation of all trees and which, for ornacouraged.

The rule of Law, that, whatever is fixed to the

What chattels freehold put up by a ten-

⁽o) Russell v. Coggins, 8 Ves. 34.

⁽p) Gough v. Birmingham Canal Company, 6 Ves. 362.

⁽q) Jackson v. Cator, 5 Ves. 691.

⁽r) Brydges v. Kilburne, 5 Ves. 689.

ant, may be re-moved by him; although they have been fixed to the freehold:

buildings, though erected for purposes of trade, cannot be removed by a lessee who has covenanted to repair generally.

freehold becomes, by annexation, part of it (s); has in modern times received a less rigid construction than formerly: as between landlord and tenant, the latter may, during the term, remove such chimney pieces, and similar articles, and generally all such engines, and instruments of trade, as he has himself put up (t). Buildings, however, though erected for purposes of trade, under a lease containing a covenant to repair all buildings and erections, cannot be removed by the lessee, when the covenant is general, and contains no exception. rule appears very reasonable; for, the expectation that buildings will be erected during the term, and be left on the premises at its expiration, may have formed the inducement for granting the lease. and have entered, as a considerable ingredient. into the estimate of the rent to be reserved (u).

Cattle levant and couchant on unless left there lord.

Cattle which have been levant and couchant upthe lands are dis- on the lands, are distrainable for the rent in artrainable for rent; rear (x): but, if the landlord have, by any fraud by the manage and subtlety, induced the owners of the cattle to ment of the landleave them for a night on the land, even should the distress be supported at Law, (which, under such circumstances, seems doubtful (y),) relief may be had in Equity (2).

Any person assisting in the reOn the other hand, any person who assists a tenant

- (s) Co. Litt. 53, a.
- (t) Lawton v. Lawton, 3 Atk.
- 14.
- (u) Thresher v. East London Water-works Company, 2 Barn. & Cressw. 614; Naylor v. Collinge, 1 Taunt. 21.
- (x) Fowkes v. Joyce, 3 Lev. 260.
- (y) See Serjt. William's 7th note to Poole v. Longueville, 2 Saund. 290.
- (z) Fowkes v. Joyce, Prec. in Cha. 7.

ant in fraudulently (a) removing any chattels moval of chattels whatever from the demised premises, with intent premises, to preto prevent the landlord from distraining for rent, distrained for is, by statute (b), answerable for the double value rent, is liable for the double value. of the articles so removed; and although the statute authorizes an application to two magistrates. who are enabled to make a summary order when the value is under £50, yet, this clause is only for the easier relief of the party injured, and does not oust the jurisdiction of the superior Courts, if the landlord prefer bringing the case before them (c).

from demised

And if a late tenant, not being entitled to an offgoing crop, and having sown what he has no right to reap, enter upon the land after the expiration of his term, and cut and carry away corn; the landlord, it seems, (if he has reserved the crop, in the grant of a new lease,) may either bring ejectment and an action for mesne profits; or, if he prefer that mode of proceeding, trover will lie(d): and we have already seen, that, wherever trover would lie at common Law, the case must be one which may, properly, be dealt with in Equity (e).

⁽a) 11 Geo. 2, c. 19: see sect. 4. Price, 310.

⁽b) Opperman v. Smith, 4 (d) Davies v. Connop, 1. Dowl. & Ryl. 85. Price, 58.

⁽c) Stanley v. Wharton, 9 (e) Ante, p. 166.

CHAPTER VII.

Fraud in committing Waste; or acts in the nature of Waste.

medies, whether or by statute, afrity against the commission of waste:

The legal re- PERSONS having only limited interests in real at common Law, estates, may, by committing waste upon the preor by statute, afford no adequate mises, fraudulently, or maliciously, cause irremepreventive secu- diable mischief to those in remainder, or reversion. The legal remedies under the common Law, as well as those specially given by the statutes of Marlebridge (a), and of Gloucester (b), are imperfect; as not authorizing effectual preventive inter-The last cited statute does, indeed, give ference. treble damages, and the forfeiture of the place wasted by tenants for life, or years, or by the courtthe mischief must esy: But the mischief must have been first done, lydone before the act can be called into operation; and, after all, the compensation may be utterly inadequate, and the damages awarded lost, by the insolvency of the defendant.

have been actual-Law can be called into operation:

The threatened. as well as actual, commission of waste, of whatever kind, is, therefore, a frequent ground for of Equity.

The threatened (c), as well as actual, commission of waste, therefore, of every kind;—and that not merely in cases strictly admitting this description, but, also, in those which are cases of waste in the interference fact, though, in correct technical denomination, they

182.

⁽a) Stat. 52 Hen. 3, c. 23.

⁽c) Gibson v. Smith, 2 Atk.

⁽b) Stat. 6 Edw. 1, c. 5.

they are rather to be termed trespasses under color of -right(d);—is a frequent, and undisputed, ground for the interference of Courts of Equity, by injunction; even in cases of which Courts of common Law would, eventually, if the waste were actually committed, have jurisdiction. Courts of Courts of Equi-Equity will, moreover, upon doctrines peculiar to ty will, also, rethose Courts, but founded on the clearest princi- mission of, what is termed, equitples, restrain the exercise of, what is (perhaps by able waste. a little solecism in language, but emphatically,) termed equitable waste (e).

In the case, also, of co-parceners and tenants in common, with regard to whose acts of waste, as acts of waste between co-partbetween themselves, the common Law has pro- ners, and tenants vided no remedy; Courts of Equity will interfere, legal remedy is when it appears that waste has been committed, or certain cases, is threatened, by one tenant in common, who has, vide one. by contract, become the occupying tenant of the other; and who is consequently bound to treat the land as any other occupying tenant should treat it (f): and a tenant in common, though not bound and, in all cases, by any contract or agreement; may be restrained, restrain acts amounting to deby injunction, from committing acts amounting to struction: but, the destruction of the property (g); but prospec-will not be given tive relief cannot be given against apprehended pure equitable acts of pure equitable waste (h): the remedy of a

With regard to in common, no provided: but, in Equity will pro-

prospective relief against acts of

tenant

(d) Mitchell v. Dors, 6 Ves. 147; Hanson v. Gardiner, 7 Ves. 308; Crockford v. Alexander, 15 Ves. 138; Earl Cowper v. Baker, 17 Ves. 128; Thomas v. Oakley, 18 Ves. 186; De Salis v. Crossan, 1 Ba. & Beat. 188.

- (e) Burgess, v. Lamb, 16 Ves. 177: see instances, infrà. (f) Twort v. Twort, 16 Ves.
- (g) Hole v. Thomas, 7 Ves.
- (h) Smallman v. Onions, 3 Br. 622.

tenant in common, who has reason to fear injury of this kind, is to apply for a partition (i).

An injunction to stay waste may be had on motion, before answer; by filing a bill with a proper prayer, and supported by affidavit:

or, in urgent cases, when a motion cannot be made, on petition:

As the fraudulent, or injurious commission of waste, can, in many instances, only be prevented by the utmost promptitude of interference, an injunction will, on motion, be granted before answer. on filing the bill, with a proper prayer (k), and shewing, by affidavit, that waste is likely to be committed (1): And, in urgent cases, between the seals, or in the long vacation when the Court of Chancery is not sitting, and no motion can be made; if a bill be filed, stating a case of waste, and supported by an affidavit of the facts; the Lord Chancellor will, upon petition, grant an injunction (m).

but, if the injunction be applied for, and issued, as pearance, when, ance has been enmust be discharged.

But, although, in cases in the nature of waste, an injunction may be granted ex parte, and withfor default of ap- out notice, even after the defendant has appeared; in fact, an appear- as, otherwise, irreparable mischief might be done tered; the order in the interval between entering an appearance, and the time when the motion could be made on notice (n); yet, if an injunction has been obtained for default of appearance, when in fact an appearance has been entered, the order must be discharged, or there would be a contradiction on the re-The affidavit cords of the Court (o). And where an injunction

in support of a

(i) Goodwyn v. Spray, 2 Dick. 667.

(k) Wright v. Atkyns, 1 Ves. & Bea. 314; Savory v. Dyer, Ambl. 70.

(1) Anonym. 1 Ves. Sepr. 476; Attorney General v. Johnson, 2 Wils. Ch. Ca. 96.

(m) Kimpton v. Eve, 2 Ves. & Bea. 351; Temple v. Bank of England, 6 Ves. 771; Mayor of London v. Bolt, 5 Ves. 130. (n) Aller v. Jones, 15 Ves. 605.

(o) Harrison v. Cockerell, 3 Meriv. 2.

to stay waste is moved for, the affidavit, in sup-motion for an inport of the motion, must set forth an express title; junction to stay waste, must set not an hypothetical title, resting upon the plain- forth an express tiff's information and belief (p): an injunction obtained on such vague grounds, instead of preventing fraud, might operate a fraudulent privation, for a time at least, of the free and just exercise of property, by the absolute owner.

Whilst parties to restrain waste

Whilst an heir at law and a devisee are litigating their adverse rights in a Court of Law; their adverse neither of them can sustain a bill in Equity, for an rights in a Court of Law, injunction, to restrain waste, spoil, or destruction, neither of them can sustain a bill by the other party, of the property, the title to for an injunction, which is under contest (q). So, if an heir get into by the other possession of an equitable estate, in respect of which party: an ejectment cannot be maintained; should a bill be filed by a person alleging himself to be devisee, son alleging himin order to try his title, and to restrain waste; if self to be devisee, for an injunction the heir, by his answer, positively deny the will, to restrain waste, cannot be grant-and insist on his own title, an injunction will be ed against the refused. The question of disputed title must be who positively first disposed of, by the proper jurisdiction. Upon denies the devise: the same principle, where, to a bill by the heir, nor could the heir against a devisee in possession, to stay waste; the have an injunction against a answer stated, that, the will under which the de-devisee in posses fendant claimed was duly executed and attested; ed, that, the will an injunction, granted before answer, was dissolv- ed and attested. ed(r).

Thus, an appliheir in possession,

sion, who insist-

In a case, where the defendant to a bill to stay Where the defendant to a bill

⁽p) Whitelegg v. Whitelegg, 173; Pilleworth v. Hopton, 6 1 Br. 57; Davies v. Leo, 6 Ves. 52. Ves. 787. (r) Anonym. cited in Norway

v. Rowe, 19 Ves. 155. (q) Jones v. Jones, 3 Meriv.

to stay waste states, that, he is but admits he session by the the defendant's purpose, be held

waste stated, that, he was in possession of the esin possession by a tate by a title of his own; but admitted, that, he title of his own; was let into possession by the plaintiff's tenant, in was let into pos- breach of his duty to his landlord; it was held, plaintiff's tenant; that, the defendant's title was, for this purpose, to title will, for this be taken as no better than the tenant's: and, though purpose, be neld a Court of Equity would not have interfered, if that of the tenant. the defendant had obtained possession without participating in the tenant's breach of duty; yet, he could not be permitted to avail himself of a possession so improperly obtained; and, on that ground, he was restrained (s).

Affidavits supporting a motion, in opposition to a defendant's answer, are, sometimes, permitted to be read in cases they do not go to of waste:

Although in general cases affidavits are not permitted to be read to support a motion, and in opposition to a defendant's answer; yet this is allowed in cases of alleged waste; with one qualificaof waste, when tion, namely, that, the plaintiff's affidavits must not the question of go to the question of title, but be confined to the title, but are confined to the fact question of fact as to waste (t). Obvious policy requires the above-stated occasional exception to the general rule; as otherwise a fraudulent and malicious defendant might, by adding perjury to the commission of waste, continue to perpetrate irremediable mischief; and, when he had done so. abscond from justice.

but, generally, such affidavits should be made

On the other hand, the general rule is, that, a plaintiff is not to wait till the defendant's answer comes

- (s) Anonym. cited 19 Ves. 154: the collusion of the tenant is always considered a strong additional reason for granting the writ; Courthope v. Mapplesden, 10 Ves. 291.
- (t) Morphett v. Jones, 19 Ves. 351; Norway v. Rowc, ibid. 153; Countess of Strathmore v. Bowes, 1 Cox, 264; Peacock v. Peacock, 16 Ves. 51.

comes in, and, instead of supporting his bill by af- when the bill is filed; a plaintiff filed; a plai then treat his bill as one in restraint of waste, and see the defence, and then file supfile supplemental affidavits in support of it (u). plemental affida The defendant is entitled, before he answers, to be his bill: apprized of the points on which the plaintiff rests his case: if the bill be supported, when filed, by a statement of particular facts on affidavit, the defendant has an opportunity of explaining, or denying, those facts in his answer; but if the plain- affidavits reservtiff reserve his affidavits till the answer is filed, he ed till the de-fendant has no deals not altogether fairly with the defendant; and opportunity of denying them such affidavits cannot be read in support of an in- cannot be read: junction: Of course, however, acts of waste done to acts of waste subsequently to the filing of the bill would be en- bill filed: titled to a distinct consideration (x). And where affidavits in supallegations in an injunction bill, as to the acts of portofallegations an injunction bill, as the parties, have neither been admitted, nor deni- nor denied, may be read, though ed, in the answer; there can be no surprise on the not filed till after the answer was defendant; and it should seem, that, affidavits, in put in. support of those allegations, may be read, though they were not filed till after the answer was put in(y).

A threat to commit waste affords, as we have seen (2), sufficient ground for an injunction: but, tention to do waste appears, though it is not necessary for a plaintiff to wait plaintiff need not till the waste is actually committed, where the in- waste is committention appears, and, more particularly, when the plies for an in-

vits in support of

unless they refer committed after

defendant, junction:

⁽u) Lawson v. Morgan, 1 Price. 306.

⁽x) Smythe v. Smythe, 1 Swanst. 253.

⁽y) Morgan v. Goode, 3

Meriv. 11; Jefferies v. Smith, 1 Jac. & Walk, 300.

⁽z) Ante, citing Gibson v. Smith, 2 Atk. 182.

will not be grantdoing mischief.

defendant, by his answer, insists on his right to do which, however, the acts complained of; yet, an injunction cannot ed upon mereap be had upon the mere apprehension, that, the deprehension, when the defendant means to do mischief, when he positively any intention of denies any such intention; the plaintiff must bring forward some fact, or threat; not allege mere belief (a).

Trustees to support contingent restrain the tenant for life from committing waste:

Bill to stav waste on behalf of an infant en ventre.

Notwithstandate estate for life, an ulterior remainder-man in fee may sustain a bill to restrain the immediate possession, from committing waste:

termediate relife be dispunishable for waste.

Where a tenant for life, subject to impeachment remainders may for waste, commits waste of any kind; Courts of bring a bill to Equity will interfere by injunction; although, in consequence of the immediate remainder not being vested, no action could be maintained at common Law: the trustees to support contingent remainders may sustain a bill to stay waste by the tenant for life (b). So, a bill may be brought on behalf of an infant en ventre sa mere to stay waste (c). And where there is tenant for life, remainder for ing an intermedilife, remainder in fee, a Court of Equity, on a bill brought by the remainder-man in fee, to stay waste by the tenant for life; will, notwithstanding the tenant for life, in intermediate estate for life, if the fact of waste is established, grant an injunction (d): otherwise, by fraudulent collusion between the tenants for life, the estate in fee might, in many instances, become although the in- almost worthless. It will make no difference, in mainder-man for the case last put, to urge, that, the remainder-man for life was dispunishable for waste; he will not, in Equity, be permitted to make an agreement to the

⁽a) Hanson v. Gardiner, 7 Ves. 309.

⁽b) Perrot v. Perrot, 3 Atk. 95; Stansfield v. Habergham, 10 Ves. 284.

⁽c) Hale v. Hale, Prec. in Cha. 50; Garth v. Cotton, 1 Dick. 198.

⁽d) Farrant v. Lovell, 3 Atk. 722.

the prejudice of the remainder in fee: as such agreement, if entered into before his power to commit waste commences, must be considered fraudulent (e).

And if trustees to preserve contingent remainders, colluding with the tenant for life, permit him preserve contingent remainders, to commit waste, in fraud of the remainders, they connive at waste by the tenant for will be responsible for breach of trust (f). will the tenant for life of an equitable estate be Tenant for life permitted, by the destruction of that estate, to estate must not bring forward a remainder; thereby enabling him- bring forward a remainder, enself to commit waste; and where there is an exe-abling himself to commit waste: cutory devise over, even of a legal estate, a Court and where there of Equity will not permit timber to be cut down, devise over, even or other waste to be committed; of course, this equity will not will be still less admissible where the executory be committed. devise over is of a trust estate. Upon this subject, Equity has greatly abridged legal rights; but, if such protection were not given, it would be easy to defeat the intention in almost every settlement(g).

A lessee who commits, or threatens to commit, waste, may, upon a bill filed by the landlord, be re- against waste, is strained by injunction: and if the defendant abscond, in order to avoid service of the injunction, service on his wife will be held good service (h). It must be understood, however, that, in order to

If trustees, to Nor life, they will be answerable.

of an equitable is an executory

of an injunction

What acts enentitle title a landlord

^{.. (}e) Robinson v. Litton, 3 Atk. 210.

⁽f) Garth v. Cotton, 3 Atk. 753.

⁽g) Stansfield v. Habergham, 10 Ves. 278.

⁽h) Onslow v. -Ves. 173; Lord Grey de Wilton v. Saxon, 6 Ves. 106; Drury v. Molins, 6 Ves. 328; Sir W. Pulteney v. Shelton, 5 Ves. 147.

relief of an injunction.

to the summary entitle the plaintiff to the summary relief of an injunction, the acts complained of must, in themselves, be clear acts of waste; or in contravention of express covenant; or agreement to be inferred from the course of dealing between the parties (i): And what sort if the question be only as to the proper quantity of of questions are more fit for the land to be cropped; and there has been no special contract on the subject, that is more fit for the decision of a jury (k).

decision of a jury.

In one case, an was refused, beed.

In one case, a motion for an injunction, on beinjunction to restrain a tenant, half of a landlord against his tenant, to stay waste, from doing waste was refused, because the landlord had not previcause the land ously brought an ejectment (l); this distinction, lord had not pre-viously brought however, does not appear to have been made in any an ejectment; but other instance; and it is obvious, that, if the innot been follow- terference of Equity were suspended till after a trial at Law, or default of the defendant at such trial. such tardy jurisdiction might, in numerous instances, be almost nugatory.

Tenant in tail. for waste, by Law;

but may, in Equity, be restrained from commission of malicious waste:

As tenant in tail after possibility of issue exafter possibility tinct is, by the provisions of the law, dispunishable of issue extinct, is dispunishable for waste; it would be an inconsequence to hold, that, he could be restrained from felling timber on the estate; or that he had not the property in the trees so cut(m): though, having only an estate, limited, by the result of events, to his own life, he may, of course, be restrained from committing malicious waste, to the fraudulent destruction of the inheritance.

⁽i) Kimpton v. Eve, 2 Ves. & Bea. 349.

⁽k) Johnson v. Goldswaine, 3 Anstr. 750.

⁽l) Lathropp v. Marsh, 5 Ves. 261.

⁽m) Williams v. Williams, 12 East, 220.

inheritance (n). For, where a particular estate is which is never given, expressly, without impeachment of waste; allowed, even this clause is never judicially interpreted to allow where a particular estate is given, the very destruction of the estate itself; but to ex- expressly, without impeachment cuse permissive waste (o): against the commission of waste: of which by tenant for life, sams impeachment, there is no instance (p). In one reported case (q), if tenant for life which may appear to be in contradiction to the be expressly universality of this last-mentioned rule; it will be certain buildings in repair, this found, on examination, that the tenant for life was qualifies the gift to him for life expressly bound, by the devise under which he sans impeachclaimed, to keep in tenantable repair the buildings, which he had suffered to become dilapidated: it is to be presumed, therefore, this was the ground on which the injunction issued.

intended to be

A tenant for life, without impeachment of waste, is clearly not compellable to pursue such a course without impeachment of of management of the timber upon the estate, as a waste may cut down any trees tenant in fee might think most advantageous; what- fit for timber. ever trees are fit for the purpose of timber he may cut down; though they may be in a still improving state (r). And where it is necessary, for the Timber impedgrowth of underwood, to cut timber growing ing the growth amongst it, this cannot (in any case, it should seem), may be cut: be considered waste (s). A tenant for life, how-but, tenant for

Tenant for life

ever, life, though dis-

- (n) S. C. 15 Ves. 427; Abraham v. Bubb, 2 Freem. 54; Anonym. 2 Freem. 278; Aston v. Aston, 1 Ves. Senr. 265. (o) Lord Bernard's case,
- Prec. in Cha. 454. (p) Wood v. Gaynon, Ambl. 396; Marquis of Lansdowne v. Marchioness Dowager of Lans-

downe, 1 Jac. & Walk. 523.

- (q) Caldwall v. Baylis, 2 Meriv. 408.
- (r) Smythe v. Smythe, 2 Swanst. 252.
- (s) Knight v. Duplessis, 2 Ves. Senr. 362; Burgess v. Lamb, 16 Ves. 179.

punishable for waste, must not

ber threatened to ornament:

not be protected. has been built near it:

for it is not davit, as planted ornament.

A termor may obtain an injunc-

ever, though dispunishable for waste, must not cut cut down trees down trees planted for ornament, or shelter to the planted for ornament; or sapling, mansion-house; or sapling not fit to be felled as timber (t); for this would not be a fairly beneficial exercise of the licence given to him; but a malicious and fraudulent injury to the remainder-man. Whether tim- The question whether the timber threatened to be be felled is orna- felled is, or is not, ornamental, being a vague quesmental, can only tion of taste; Courts of Equity have held, that, the an inquiry, whether the ther it was plant only way of resolving it is, to inquire whether the ed with a view to trees were planted with a view to ornament by the testator, or other donor of the disputed interest; A wood will and to hold his taste conclusive (u). The doctrine because a house as to ornamental timber, will not be carried to the extent of holding, that, by building a house near a considerable wood the wood is entitled to the protection of Equity, under that principle; so that no part of the wood is to come down. It must not enough, that, trees are, de fac- be understood that, all trees which, de facto, are to, ornamental; ornamental, will be protected: to make the equitscribed, by affi-able doctrine applicable, the timber must be deand growing for scribed, by affidavit, not as ornamental merely, but as planted and growing for ornament (w).

. A termor who has built upon land which he tion to stay waste, holds at ground rent, is, upon a proper case shewn, as much entitled to an injunction to stay waste against his under-lessee, as if he had an estate

of

Lady Sandys, 6 Ves. 110; Day v. Merry, 16 Ves. 376.

⁽t) Chamberlayne v. Dummer, 3 Br. 549; Lord Tamworth, v. Lord Ferrers, 6 Ves.

⁽u) Marquis of Downshire v.

⁽w) Burgess v. Lambe, 16 Ves. 183; Williams v. M'Namara, 8 Ves. 70.

of inheritance (x). And if a mortgagee in fee, as, in certain in possession, commit waste by cutting down tim- cases, a mortgaber; without applying the money arising by the mortgagee in possale of such timber in reduction of the mortgage debt; a Court of Equity, on a bill brought by the mortgagor to stay waste, and a proper affidavit, will grant an injunction (y). On the other hand, where the mortgagor is allowed to continue in possession, if he commit waste, by cutting down retain possession, may be restraintimber, or otherwise; he will, at the suit of the ed, at the suit of mortgagee, be restrained from prejudicing the se-from cutting An injunction, in such case, will be more especially necessary to prevent fraud, if it be sworn, that, the land, without the timber, is a scanty security for the debt (z).

On the other hand, a mortgagor, allowed to the mortgagee,

Though a rector may cut down timber for the repairs of the parsonage house, or the chancel (a); cut down timber for repairs of the yet, if he commit waste on the glebe, for other pur-parsonage, or poses, he may be restrained, by injunction, at the for other pursuit of the patron (b): and so may a Dean and waste by a Dean Chapter, or a Bishop, at the instance of the At-Bishop, may be torney General, on behalf of the Crown: in which restrained. the patronage of all bishopricks is vested (c). And as a rector, whilst he is incumbent, and has a fee simple, qualified by restrictions, may be restrained from committing waste upon his parson-

A rector may chancel; but, not

- (x) Farrant v. Lovell, 3 Atk. 723.
 - (y) S. C. p. 724.
- (z) S. C. and Robinson v. Litton, 3 Atk. 210; Usborne v. Usborne, 1 Dick. 76; Humphreys v. Harrison, 1 Jac. & Walk. 581. See, pest, the chap-

ter on "Mortgages."

- (a) Knight v. Mosely, Ambl. 176; Strachy v. Francis, 2 Atk. 217.
 - (b) S. C.
- (c) Wither v. Dean of Winchester, 3 Meriv. 427.

commit waste:

So, if a jointress. waste, an injunctained: against prohibition almon Law.

The widow of age house and glebe lands; it follows, a fortiori, a rector may be restrained, dur- that, if, after his death, his widow, during the vaing the vacancy of the living, attempt to commit waste, she of the living, if she attempt to may be restrained, at the suit of the patron (d).

So, if a jointress commit waste upon the joinor tenant by the ture estate (e); or a tenant by the courtesy upon guardiso, commit lands which he holds as such (f); or a guardian tion may be ob- upon the estate of his ward (g); in each of these tenant in dower, cases, an injunction may be obtained. And against ways lay at com. a tenant in dower, a prohibition lay at common Law, before the statutes of Marlebridge and of Gloucester (h).

A tenant for life, subject to impeachment of open new mines: new shafts.

A tenant for life, subject to impeachment of waste, must not open new mines (i); for these bewaste, must not long to the inheritance: but he may, in the ordinary but he may sink course of working them, take the produce of mines previously opened: and sink new pits, or shafts. for the purpose of working the old veins (k).

- (d) Hoskins v. Featherstone; 2 Br. 552.
- (e) Aston v. Aston, 1 Ves. Senr. 267.
- (f) Roberts v. Roberts, Hardr. 96.
- (g) Clarke v. Thorp, 2 Ves. Sen. 232.
- (h) Co. Litt. 53, a; Clavering v. Clavering, Mosely, 220.
- (i) Whitefield v. Bewit, 2 P. Wms, 242; Tracy v. Hereford, 2 Br. 138.
- (k) Clavering v. Clavering, Mosely, 223.

CHAPTER VIII.

Fraud in the Confusion of Boundaries.

THE jurisdiction of Chancery in adjusting controverted boundaries, seems to have been modelled of Chancery in adjusting controupon either the writ de rationabilibus divisis, or the verted boundawrit de perambulatione faciendá (a); though Lord Northington and Lord Thurlow were of opinion, that, consent was the ground on which it had been, at first, exercised (b).

Both these Judges concurred in holding, that, does not arise unthe Court of Chancery has simply no jurisdiction less some equity to settle boundaries of legal estate; unless some by act of the parties; Equity is superinduced by the act of the parties: that is to say, unless some particular circumstance of fraud, or mistake, be shewn—as, where one party has ploughed too near the other, or the like (c). The Court of Exchequer (d), and Sir confusion of William Grant, M. R. (e), came to a similar connishes, of itself, clusion, that, the confusion of boundaries furnishes, no ground for the interposition of per se, no ground for the interposition of a Court Equity: of Equity, by granting a commission, or directing an issue. Lord

⁽a) Reg. Brev. 157, b.

⁽d) Atkyns v. Hatton, 2 Anstr. 386.

⁽b) St. Luke's v. St. Leonard's, 1 Br. 40.

⁽e) Speer v. Crawter, 2 Mer.

⁽c) Wake v. Conyers, 2 Cox,

^{362;} S. C. 1 Eden, 331.

Lord Rosslyn's decree in the case of The Duke of Leeds v. The Earl of Strafford (f); and the

it is otherwise when the confuthe neglect of the tenant whose keep up the boundaries:

cases of Norris v. Le Neve (g), and The Duke of Leeds v. Powell (h), heard before Lord Hardwicke, are not inconsistent with the decisions first referred to. In The Duke of Leeds v. The Earl of Strafsion arises from ford, a commission was granted, not simply because the boundaries were confused, but because they duty it was to had become so by the neglect or fraud of the tenant, whose duty it was to keep them up (i); which clearly brought the case within the jurisdiction of Equity: and it was upon this principle, that, the case of The Attorney General v. Fullarton (k), was decided. In the case of Norris v. Le Neve it did not, indeed, appear, that it was by default of the defendant, that, the boundaries were confused; but we learn, from the early part of the report (1), there was an agreeement between the parties, that, the lands should be distinguished; and also, that, many of the writings belonging to the estate, which probably were necessary to enable the plaintiff to ascertain his right, were in the defendant's hands: either of which facts may sufficiently account for the commission being granted.

or when there has been an agreement to have the lands distinguished; or the muniments are in the defendant's hands.

The case of The In The Duke of Leeds v. Powell, Lord Hard-Duke of Leeds v. Powell, analysed. wicke said, that, "as Equity will relieve where there is a clear right to rent, but no remedy at Law, as no demesne lands on which to distrain; so it will where there can be no distress owing to a confusion

- (f) 4 Ves. 180.
- (g) 3 Atk. 31, 82.
- (h) 1 Ves. Sen. 171.
- (i) Willis v. Parkinson, 1
- Swanst. 9; Speer v. Crawter, 17 Ves. 225.
 - (k) 2 Ves. & Bea. 264,
 - (1) In 3 Atk. 31.

a confusion of boundaries, &c." As this observation, respecting boundaries, was merely incidental, and only illustrative of the principal case then under consideration, perhaps the comprehensive "&c." may fairly be understood as including those circumstances of fraud, or neglect, which would bring any such case within equitable jurisdiction: but it is further to be observed, that, there was, in Courts of Equithis case, no question as to granting a commission, ty cautious in granting a comor issue, to ascertain boundaries simply, ("that ju-mission, or issue, to ascertain risdiction which Courts of Equity have always boundaries simp been very cautious in exercising (m),") but the relief this relief in aid was in aid of a distress; as it was in the cases of of a distress: The Duke of Bridgwater v. Edwards (n), and in Eton College v. Beauchamp (o); which last cited case, with that of The Duke of Leeds v. Powell, it may be incidentally remarked, have settled, that, although at Law the land, only, be chargeable with fee farm, or quit rents; yet, in Equity, where the land has been holden without due payment, the tenant's personal estate, whether in his own hands or those of his representatives, is answerable for the arrears, to the amount of the profits derived by him from the premises.

. As there can be no distress upon tithes, relief or where there may be had in Equity, in case of non-payment of Equity will derent issuing out of a portion of tithes (p). When- cree the full estiever a proper case is shewn for granting a com- the proprietor in mission, and it is impossible, from the default of the tenant, to distinguish the exact boundaries; a

mated value to

Court

⁽m) Atkins v. Hatton, 2 Anstr. 395.

⁽n) 4 Br. P. C. 139.

⁽o) 1 Cha. Ca. 121.

⁽p) Berkeley v. Lord Salisbury, cited in 2 Br. 518.

Court of Equity will inquire what was the value of the estate, (valued fairly, but to the utmost as against that tenant), and assign the proprietor a full equivalent (q).

A commission does not issue to distinguish boundaries of a manor:

or parish.

When it does not appear how boundaries has arisen, the exmission must be both parties, terests be unequal.

A commission to distinguish the boundaries of a manor ought not, it seems, to be granted; for manors do not, properly, consist of metes and bounds: and a certificate from commissioners on this subject will be quashed (r). The like rule holds as to the boundaries of parishes (s).

With respect to the expense of commissions of the confusion of this nature, Lord Hardwicke settled, that, it should be borne equally by both parties, though their inpense of a com- terests be unequal; for the confusion may, possibly, borne equally by nay even probably, have arisen from the estate of though their in- least value; and if it were determined, that, the expense should be borne in proportion to the quantum of interest, an account must be directed before the Master, which would be more chargeable to all parties (t). This rule was most just in the case before his Lordship—where it did not appear how the confusion had arisen: but it would be inapplicable to a case in which it appeared, that, the necessity for the commission had arisen solely from the fraud, or default, of one of the par-The ties.

- (q) Duke of Leeds v. Lord Strafford, 4 Ves. 186; Aston v. Lord Exeter, 6 Ves. 293; Attorney General v. Fullarton, 2 Ves. & Bea. 265.
- (r) Norris v. Le Neve, 3 Atk. 82: the question is properly triable at Law. See Lethicul-
- lier v. Lord Castlemain, 1 Dick. 47.
- **(s)** Atkins v. Hatton, 2 Anstr. 395; St. Luke's v. St. Leonard's. 1 Br. 40.
- (t) Norris v. Le Neve, ubi suprà.

The foundation of a commission to ascertain boundaries, when both parties do not consent, one party, to must be laid by shewing, not merely that confu- whom no blame attaches, resist sion has arisen, but, that, it has arisen from mis-it. conduct on the part of the defendant, or those under whom he claims, rendering it incumbent on him to co-operate in re-establishing them (u). For, a Court of Equity will not interfere between two independent proprietors, and force one of them, against whom no fraud, or default, is established, to have his rights tried and determined in any other than the ordinary legal mode, inwhich questions of property are to be decided (w).

A commission cannot be had, if

When the commissioners have returned their certificate, the practice of the Court of Chancery is, confirming the commissioners' for the plaintiffs to obtain an order nisi for con-certificate, in Chancery; and in firming the certificate: but in the Court of Ex- the Exchequer. chequer the course is, upon the return of the certificate, to set the cause down for further directions; and as, in this way, the opposite party has notice, the return may be confirmed absolutely in the first instance (x).

⁽u) Miller v. Warmington,

¹ Jac. & Walk. 492. (x) Dean & Chapter of Here-

⁽w) Speer v. Crawter, 2 Mer. ford v. Hullet, 6 Price, 332.

CHAPTER IX.

Fraud in matters of Partition.

diction in partition; which is a proceeding at com-

Courts of Equi- THE Court of Chancery has no original juristy have no original jurisdiction in partition:

but, issue commissions for this count of the difficulty attending partition at Law:

mon Law (a): a party choosing to have a partition has the Law open to him; there is no Equity for The Courts of Chancery and Exchequer it (b). purpose, on ac- issue commissions, for this purpose, not under the authority of any Act of Parliament; but on account of the extreme difficulty attending the process of partition at Law; where the plaintiff must prove his title as he declares, and also the titles of the defendants. That is attended with so much difficulty, that, by analogy to the jurisdiction of a Court of Equity in the case of dower, a partition Upon a bill for may be obtained by bill. The plaintiff must, howpartition, the Court directs an ever, state upon the record his own title, and the inquiry to ascertiitles of the defendants; and the Court will direct

utled to the whole subject of an inquiry, to ascertain who are, together with him, partition.

> (a) Mundy v. Mundy, 2 Ves. Ves. Jun. 570. Jun. 124. (c) Agar v. Fairfax, 17 (b) Calmady v. Calmady, 2 Ves. 553.

ceeding

is evident, that, where the interest is much divided, this course is much more convenient than pro-

entitled to the whole subject of partition (c).

ceeding in a Court of Law (d). And the jurisdiction is now so established by usage, that, a held due, whercommission is considered due, in all cases where would lie: the writ would lie (e): and not only so, but, it has and, in some been declared, there is no doubt, that, a Court of would not. Equity may interfere in cases where a writ of partition would not lie at common Law (f).

The forms of completing a partition at Law and The forms of completing a partition at Law and Al Law, partition is effected in Equity are essentially different. In the first by judgment of case, it is effected by the judgment of a Court of the Court, which concludes all the Law, and the delivering up possession in pursu-parties to the judgment: ance thereof; which concludes all the parties to the judgment. Partition in Equity proceeds upon conveyances to be executed by the parties; and upon conveythe partition cannot be effectually had, if the par- ances to be executed by the parties be not competent to execute the convey-ties. ances (g): and, for this reason, it is essential to have the legal title before the Court (h): And though fant in fant be a party, an infant may be either plaintiff or defendant un- the conveyances der a bill for partition, yet, the conveyances of all of all parties must be respited. parties must be respited till he comes of age (i).

Another marked distinction is, that, under a writ for a partition, that specific relief alone can be can be had; unhad; but, under a commission the account between der a commission an account may the parties, with respect to the rents and profits of be decreed. the estate, may be decreed at the same time (k).

By usage, a

At Law, par-

In Equity, partition proceeds

Under a writ,

Commissioners

- (d) Baring v. Nash, 1 Ves. & Bea. 555.
- (e) Turner v. Morgan, 8 Ves. 145; Manaton v. Squire, 2 Freem. 26.
 - (f) Swan v. Swan, 8 Price, 519.
- (g) Whaley v. Dawson, 2 Sch. & Lef. 372; Lord Brook
- v. Lord & Lady Hertford, 2 P. Wms. 518.
- (h) Miller v. Warmington, 1 Jac. & Walk. 498.
- (i) Tuckfield v. Buller, 1 Dick. 243.
- (k) Lorimer v. Lorimer, 5 Ves. 363.

Commissioners. appointed to settle a partition, owe an impartial duty to the Court.

Commissioners, appointed to settle a partition. violate their duty, and the confidence reposed in them by the Court, if they consider themselves either the plaintiff's or defendant's commissioners; they owe an impartial duty to the Court, and all the parties equally (1).

Partition is usually between joint-tenants, tenants in common, or co-parceners; but tenants in dower not excluded.

It has been said, obiter, that, partition can only be between joint-tenants, tenants in common, or co-parceners (m): but, under some circumstances, the jurisdiction has, for a length of time, been admitted in bills for dower (n); the resemblance being close between the titles of tenant in common and in dower.

Equity will not permit a demurrer to a bill for partition, on the ground of the intemporary partition;

And joint-tenants, or tenants in common, who have only a particular estate for term of life, or years, are, by statute (o), compellable to make parconvenience of a tition by writ: a Court of Equity, therefore, will not, merely in consideration of the inconvenience of a temporary partition, permit a demurrer to a bill, by a plaintiff having a quantity of interest though the own. which would entitle him to the writ (p); although the owner of the inheritance does not choose, and in the object of cannot at the instance of a termor be compelled, to join in the object of the suit.

er of the inheritance will not join the suit;

> Upon the same reasoning, it is no objection to a partition, that parties may subsequently come in esse, who will be entitled; in which event the whole process will have to be commenced over again.

or because parties may subsequently come in esse, who will be entitled;

- (o) Stat. 32 Hen. 8, c. 32.
- (p) Baring v. Nash, 1 Ves. & Bea. 555.

⁽l) Watson v. Duke of Northumberland, 11 Ves. 160.

⁽m) Miller v. Warmington, ubi snorà.

⁽n) Mundy v. Mundy, 2 Ves.

again (q). And difficulty, or inconvenience, or or on the score of minuteness of a party's interest, cannot, in any case, minuteness of a avail as an objection to a commission (r).

difficulty; or the party's interest.

A mortgagee of an undivided estate cannot be compelled to agree to a partition, for he is entitled party to a partito the whole: but neither is he a necessary party to a partition as between the mortgagors; and the equity of reparties jointly interested in the equity of redemp- have a partition tion may have a partition, without bringing the selves. mortgagee before the Court. When, however, one of the joint-tenants of the equity of redemption has been in possession of the estate as occupier, and has been at great expense in improvements, although such expenditure may not, strictly speaking, give a lien on the premises, yet, if the other ioint-tenant refuse to make a reasonable allowance and satisfaction for the advantage arising to the estate from these improvements, this will be good ground for a Court of Equity to decline granting a commission for a partition, at the suit of the party who has refused such reasonable terms (s).

A mortgagee is tion: but jointtenants of the demption may

A bill will lie for a partition of tithes (t); or of an advowson, which may be necessary when a partition of titnes; an advowparty jointly interested, whether from fraudulent or perverse motives, will not concur in a presentation, thereby endangering a lapse to the bishop of the diocese (u): in such cases, there will be a decree form of a decree

partition of tithes:

(q) Wills v. Slade, 6 Ves. 498.

(r) Parker v. Gerrard, Ambl. 236; Baring v. Nash, 1 Ves. & Bea. 544; Turner v. Morgan, 8 Ves. 145: and see 11 Ves. 157, in note; Warner v. Baynes, Amhl. 589.

(s) Swan v. Swan, 8 Price,

- (t) Baxter v. Knollys, 1 Ves. Senr. 495.
- (u) Matthews v. Bishop of Bath & Wells, 2 Dick. 652.

in a suit of the for latter description.

for mutual conveyances, so that the plaintiff may hold one moiety of the advowson to him and his heirs; and the defendant the other moiety to him and his heirs, as tenants thereof in severalty respectively; with a clause, that each shall present alternately: and if it appear, that, the last presentation was made by one party alone, or by those under whom he claims; then, on the next ensuing avoidance, the other party will have that turn of presentation allotted to him (w).

As general doctrine, a partition er to sell or exchange;

surance being clearly distinct: on a partition, each party has au exchange. new lands are acquired.

It was, in one case, held, that, a partition was a is not a good execution of a power to sell or exchange (x); ecution of a pow- but if that decision cannot be distinguished by, and made to rest upon, its own special circumstances, it seems over-ruled, as general doctrine, by later cases; in which it is laid down, that, a partition the modes of as- and an exchange are perfectly distinct modes of assurance; each having its own rules, which are inapplicable to the other. On a partition, each his own land; by party has his own land, though he acquires a different interest in it; but, on an exchange, the land is parted with altogether, and new lands acquired: the transactions may approximate to each other and have some things in common, but they are not the same (y).

Mere partition does not revoke addition to the

tition does.

A mere partition of an estate, whether effected a previous devise: by compulsion or agreement, does not operate a but the slightest revocation of a previous devise of that estate: but addition to the purpose of par- the slightest addition to that purpose, will be a revocation

⁽w) Bodicoate v. Steers, 1 Dick. 69.

⁽x) Abel v. Heathcote, 2 Ves. Jun. 101.

⁽y) Attorney General v. Hamilton, 1 Mad. 223; M'Queen v. Farquhar, 11 Ves. 476.

revocation of the will: if nothing more be done (in addition to the partition) than the introduction of a power of appointment, prior to the limitation of uses, that very slight circumstance is sufficient to revoke the will (s). And an agreement for a partition which cannot be performed in ipsissimis may revoke a verbis, but is yet such an agreement as Equity will execute, giving a compensation; is a revocation of a previous will (a).

An agreement for a partition

When one tenant in common has granted a lease of his share in the estate; to a bill for par- an estate is in tition, the lessee is a necessary party; and his lesse lessee is a necessary costs must be borne by his lessor (b). The existence of a lease, however, may, in some instances, and the existence throw insuperable difficulty in the way of a par-under peculiar tition: if, indeed, the lease be of an undivided moiety circumstances, be an insurmountof the lands; then, being taken subject to the right able objection to a partition. of partition, a Court of Equity might order the part allotted to the lessor to be subject to the lease, and liberate the other part: but, where there has been a parol partition of an estate between the parties entitled; and a lease has been granted by one of them, of the part allotted to him; he cannot, during the existence of that lease, whereby the value of the whole estate may perhaps be injured, insist upon a new, and formal, partition. If, in such case, a partition were awarded, the estate must be valued free from the lease; but, the lessee could not be directed to join in the conveyance; for he would be entitled to insist, that, no part of the land

When an undivided share of of a lease, may,

⁽z) Knollys v. Alcock, 5 (a) S. C. 7 Ves. 565. Ves. 654: confirmed, on ap-(b) Cornish v. Gest, 2 Cox, peal, 7 Ves. 564. 27.

land comprised in his lease should be conveyed away from his lessor (c).

A partition by parol agreement not to be disturbed.

Though an agreement for a partition was entered into by parol only, yet, after it has been actualafter a length of ly executed, and the enjoyment in severalty has, for a length of time, gone in conformity thereto, the Court of Chancery will not allow such an agreement, so acted upon, to be disturbed; provided the parties agreeing were competent to bind the inheritance (d).

Rule as to costs tition.

The expenses of a commission are to be borne on a bill of par- by the parties in proportion to their respective interests (e); but with this understanding, that, under a bill for partition, no costs are given up to the hearing (f): for there would be no equity in saddling one party with any portion of the charges in respect of previous collateral questions raised by the other (g).

A partition thereto:

A partition, and, a fortiori, an agreement for a never affects the interests of persons not interests of persons not sons not parties parties thereto(h); what the proportions and rights of the actual parties may be, it is the province of the Court to ascertain; and, when that is done, then the duty of the commissioners begins; which is, to make a division in those ascertained proporduty of commis- tions (i). The commissioners, having undertaken stoners, and pay-ment of their this duty, cannot insist upon payment of their charges,

charges,

- (c) Whaley v. Dawson, 2 Sch. & Lef. 372. (d) Ireland v. Rittle, 1 Atk.
- (e) Calmady v. Calmady, 2 Ves. Jun. 570.
 - (f) Baring v. Nash, 1 Ves.
- & Bea. 554.
- (g) Whaley v. Dawson, 2 Sch. & Lef. 371.
- (h) Ireland v. Rittle, 1 Atk. 542.
- (i) Agar v. Fairfax, 17 Ves. 543.

charges, before they make their return. competent to an officer of a Court of Equity to stop in any stage of his duty, and refuse to proceed: he must go on and complete it; and then come to the Court for remuneration (k). If under If two different a commission for partition, directed to four com-returns are made, the Court will missioners, two different returns are made, and act upon neither, but direct a new each of them by two commissioners; this is not a commission. due execution of the authority on either side: the Court will act upon neither, but issue a new commission to five commissioners (l).

umberland, 11 Ves. 162; Corbet v. Davenant, 2 Br. 252.

⁽k) Young v. Sutton, 2 Ves. & Bea. 366.

⁽¹⁾ Watson v. Duke of North-

CHAPTER X.

Fraud in respect of Testamentary Dispositions of Property: or claims arising out of Intestacy.

The direct iurisdiction of Charicery to relieve against fraud, restricted wills:

WE have already had occasion to state (a), that, the principle of peculiar jurisdiction, which gives to the Court of Chancery more extensive privileges in the instance of and powers to relieve against fraud than to any other Court, is subject to one exception; which belongs to the subject we are now about to enter upon.

> If the execution of a will relating to personal property be obtained by fraud, or if it be fraudulently set up, such will can only be set aside by the Ecclesiastical Courts (b); if it relate to real estate, a Court of Equity can do no more, in the first instance, than direct an issue, devisavit vel non, to a Court of common Law (c). A Judge in Equity cannot even notice any alleged variance between a will as it stands, and the instructions given for preparing it (d). But, in order to enable an heir to try the validity of his ancestor's will by the convenient

- (a) See the introductory chapter, p. 17.
 - (b) Archer v. Moss, 2 Vern.
- 8; Ex parte Fearon, 5 Ves. 647.
 - (c) Bennett v. Wade, 2 Atk.
- 824; Pemberton v. Pemberton, 13 Ves. 297; Jones v. Jones, 3 Meriv. 171.
- (d) Murray v. Jones, 2 Ves. & Bea. 318.

convenient mode of an action of ejectment, a Court of Equity will remove out of his way all obstacles arising from outstanding terms, satisfied or unsatisfied (e).

It must not, from what has been said above, be but, the collatinferred, that, with respect to frauds connected eral jurisdiction of Equity with with wills, the arm of the Court of Chancery is regard to testamentary disposiparalysed. On the contrary, there is no branch tions is most exof its jurisdiction which is more frequently, or more efficiently, exercised, than the correction of fraud attempted through the medium, or in defeat, of testamentary dispositions.

It is to be observed, that, suppression of instruments affecting title may, in many cases, give to sion of testament-Courts of Equity a jurisdiction which they had not may give Courts of Equity an origoriginally over the subject (f). Thus, although inal jurisdiction the rule is, not to allow a suit against an executor jects; for a legacy before probate of the will; yet, if the executor have fraudulently destroyed the will, this spoliation and destruction will entitle the plaintiff to apply to the Court of Chancery, in the first instance, for a decree; and he will not be driven to cite the executor into the Ecclesiastical Court, where, the forms of proceeding, in proof of the suppressed will, are attended with much greater difficulty (g). For, although the Spiritual Court and they may be is the proper forum for deciding whether an in-driven to decide strument is to be considered as testamentary, or strument is testanot; yet, other Courts must, sometimes, be under the necessity of determining that question, when it

The suppresary instruments

whether an inmentary.

forms

⁽e) Pemberton v. Pemberton, Hob. 109.

¹³ Ves. 298. (g) Tucker v. Phipps, 3 Atk.

⁽f) Lord Hunsdon's case, 360.

forms an essential ingredient in a case brought before them, and the parties will not resort to the Spiritual Court (h).

Complete effect to be given to a testator's intent,

The leading principle, by which Courts of Equity are guided in their decisions upon wills, is, that, when not illegal: complete effect ought to be given to the true intention of testators (i), so far as that intention is not repugnant to Law (k). To prescribe any determinate formula of words for the expression of every testator's intent, would (from the infinite variety of situations and circumstances.) be, obviously, impracticable. All Courts, therefore, are necessarily driven, in many instances, to give operation to a will by means of inference and conin explanation of struction: and, where a will is obscure, a Court which, inference may be obliged to be contented with slight cirare often neces. cumstances for its explanation (1). But, the best But the plain rule of construction is that which takes the words must not be tam- of a will to comprehend all that, and no more than, the sake of a more falls within their usual sense; unless there be something like declaration plain to the contrary, in other parts of the instrument (m). Where the meaning can be ascertained, and is not illegal, no arguments ab inconvenienti can induce a Court to put a different construction on a testator's words (x). And a difficulty as to carrying into execution a particular

which, inference

sense of words pered with, for convenient construction.

⁽h) Attorney General v. Jones, 3 Price, 379.

⁽i) Thelluson v. Woodford, 11 Ves. 148.

⁽k) S. C. in an earlier stage, 4 Ves. 329; Dodson v. Grew. Wilmot, 274.

⁽l) Sansbury v. Read, 12 Ves. 77.

⁽m) Church v. Mundy, 15 Ves. 406.

⁽n) Leigh v. Leigh, 15 Ves. 103.

ticular direction, even although such difficulty should amount to positive impracticability, will not authorize a Court to substitute another form of disposition, controlling the express words of the testator's declaration.

In order to develop the application of these principles, and of others equally connected with and progress of the present branch of this Treatise, it may be ne- testamentary powers, in this cessary to take a very compendious review of the country. rise and origin of testamentary powers; as well as of the limits within which those powers are, either prescriptively or by positive enactment (p), confined.

Compendious view of the rise

So long as the feudal system continued in full activity in this kingdom, although the disposal of right of disposipersonalty by will was, partially, and to a certain tion was, at first, restrained to part extent, admitted (q); yet, the alienation of land, of a testator's personalty. to which personal duties and services were annexed as a condition of tenure, was, as a necessary consequence, prohibited, even during the lifetime of the tenant; unless the consent of his lord, (and of his own heir, where the lands were held by descent,) was first obtained (r). Of course, any disposal of the lands by the tenant, to take effect after his death, was still more inadmissible.

Under the feu-

. As the interest of the lord, in the personal qualities of his vassal, was very great, where the ten-litary tenure, was

Alienation of

(o) Defflis v. Goldschmidt, 1 Meriv. 420; Bernard v. Montague, 1 Meriv. 481.

(p) Dodson v. Grew, Wilmot, 174; Keiley v. Fowler, Wilm. 807.

(q) 2 Black. Comm. 491, citing Glanvil. lib. 2, c. 5; Bracton, l. 2, c. 26; Fleta, l. 2, c. 57.

(r) Dalrymple's Hist. of feudal property in Great Britain, chap. 3, sect. 1.

able than when in socage.

more objection ure was military: but these qualities were of the land was held comparatively trifling importance, where the lands were held by socage, or burgage, tenure; it was with respect to lands of these latter descriptions, that, the power of alienation first was allowed.

At the time when Magna Charta was enacted,

the right of every freeman to give or sell a part of

By Magna Charta, every man's right to dispose was recognized.

quia emptores;

of part of his land, his land, so that the residue should be sufficient to answer the services due to the lord, was recog-This led to sub- nized (s). This power having led to the frequent infeudations; a practice of sub-infeudation, which operated as a ed by the statute fraud upon the rights of the lords paramount, the evil was redressed by the statute "Quia Emptores." which determined, that, purchasers should hold of the chief lord, and not of the feoffor; and, that, where the tenant sold part of the lands, the services should be apportioned (t). Under this statute the power of alienation to take effect after death, whilst the party retained the utile dominium for life, was, virtually, but circuitously, made feasible. by means of raising an use. The statute of 27 Hen. 8, c. 10, by converting an use so raised into swer testament the legal estate, interrupted this contrivance. ary purposes: and though a sub- But, ingenuity being stimulated by strong motives converted an use both of private and public convenience, another legal estate; this device was speedily found out; and by the simple was defeated by process, (as a learned Judge has described it,) of the invention of process, adding three words to the conveyance, and thereby raising a second use, the transaction was decided to be taken out of the operation of the act; and a trust to be raised, which a Court of Equity

which was, by the contrivance of uses, made to anso raised into the trusts.

(s) Stat. 9 Hen. 3, chap. 30.

(t)- Stat. 18 Edw. 1, c. 1, 2.

would

would execute (u). The necessity, however, for These circuithaving recourse to these circuitous modes of di- to a great extent, recting the devolution of lands after the decease cessary by the of the actual tenant, was, to a great extent, obviated, soon after, by what are usually described as the statutes of wills (v); by these acts, all persons were expressly enabled to dispose, by will, of all lands holden by them in common socage, and not by knight's service. Finally, the statute of the and, by the abo-12 Car. 2, c. 24, took away and discharged all lition of military tenures by knight's service, of whomsoever the consequences, all lands holden in same were holden, and also all tenures by socage fee simple bein capite, together with the fruits and consequences thereof: and further enacted, that, all tenures thereafter to be created should be in free and common socage only.

ous modes were, rendered unnestatutes of wills;

came devisable.

By this act, coupled with the statutes, before cited, of Hen. 8, all, or nearly all, the lands in this kingdom became devisable by those who were owners thereof in fee simple. Copyholds, however, could not, till a very late period, be bequeath- could not be bequeath- queathed without ed, without the ceremony of a previous surrender a previous surrender render, until a to the use of the will; and then passed, not by vir-recent statute tue of the will, as such, but, as a declaration of the cessity of this, as use: but, a modern statute (w) has made disposi- matter of form. tions of copyhold estates by will effectual, although no previous surrender to the uses thereof may have been made. The act provides, that, this indulgence shall not operate in fraud of the lord of

But copyholds could not be beobviated the nefar as it was mere

⁽u) Hopkins v. Hopkins, 1 Atk. 591; Burgess v. Wheate, 1 W. Bla. 160, 180; S. C. 1 Eden, 223, 247.

⁽v) Stat. 32 Hen. 8, c. 1; 34 & 35 Hen. 8, c. 5.

⁽w) Stat 55 Geo. 3, c. 192.

This statute does not supply the defect of a surrender by a feme coverte.

the manor, or of the Crown: but, that, the devisee shall only be admitted on payment of all such stamp duties, fees, and sums of money, as would have been payable upon a surrender to the use of the will. This act, it should be recollected, does not supply the defect of a surrender by a feme coverte, where, by the custom of the manor, such surrender is necessary to substantiate her will: for, in such cases, a separate examination of the feme coverte is essential to a free disposal of the property by her: and the statute in question was intended to supply mere matter of form only (x). Neither will copyhold pass under a general devise, where the testator has left any freehold property; and has not, by his will, described any part of his estate as being copyhold (y).

Estates pur autre vie.

Estates of occupancy, held pur autre vie, were considered as not within the purview of the statutes of wills; but clearly came within the scope of the statute against fraudulent devises (x). they were also within the 12th section of the statute for prevention of frauds and perjuries, to the extent of being assets for payment of debts, was In cases of in- never doubted. But, how, in a case of intestacy, estates distribut. the surplus should be applied, was made a quesed as personalty: tion: to resolve this, it was enacted (a), that, where there is no special occupant of an estate pur autre vie, of which no devise has been made accord-

testacy, such

⁽z) Stat. 3 Will. & Mary, cap. (x) Doe v. Bartle, 5 Barn & Ald. 507; S. C. 1 Dowl. & Ryl. 91. (a) Stat. 14 Geo. 2, cap. 20,

⁽y) Hodgson v. Merest, 9 sec. 9. Price, 574, 575.

ing to the statute of frauds, such estate, or so much thereof as shall not have been so devised, shall be distributed as the personal estate of the testator, or intestate. But, though such estates but, generally, legal interest in are. with reference to creditors and personal resuch property, presentatives, treated as personalty; and, in a can only pass by Court of Equity, the executor is deemed a trustee plicable to free-hold estate. for those to whom the same is given, by a will sufficient to pass personal estate(b); still, it should seem, that, none but creditors and representatives can acquire the legal interest in such property, except by a conveyance applicable to freehold estate; for that, to a certain extent, it answers that description, was never doubted (c).

The too extensive construction which at first was given to the statutes of wills, opened a wide door to frauds upon these final dispositions of Loose notes, in the handwriting of another, and not signed by the testator, were sustained, upon parol evidence, as a good and sufficient will, in disposal of lands (d). To remedy this evil, the 5th sect. of the statute of frauds and of land nust be executed, and atperjuries (e) enacts, that, all devises and bequests tested. of lands shall be in writing, and signed (f) by the person devising the same, or by some other person in his presence and by his express directions, and shall be attested and subscribed, in the presence

How devises

ا پر

of

⁽b) Ripley v. Waterworth, 7 Ves. 452.

⁽c) S. C. ibid. p. 438.

⁽d) Stephens v. Gerrard, 2 Keble, 128; S. C. 1 Sid. 315.

⁽e) Stat. 29 Car. 2, c. 3.

⁽f) Morison v. Turnour, 18 Ves. 183; Coles v. Trecothick, 9 Ves. 248.

of the devisor, by at least three credible witnesses; or else such devise shall be utterly void.

What attestaand in what mandies the omission of such attesta-

With respect to bequests of stock in the pubtion is, at Law, lic funds, it was only necessary by the old acts to quests of stock; devise by a will in writing (g): but, by later staner Equity remetutes (h), such devise (which is in the nature of a parliamentary appointment, and does not require the assent of the executor,) is inoperative at Law unless it be attested by two witnesses. ty, however, though the executor would take any stock disposed of without such attestation. he would take it as trustee for those entitled to the personal estate; and (by what may appear an artificial refinement to get rid of the statute of frauds,) it would be held, not that the stock was devised by the will, but, that the will was a direction to Bequests of per- the executor how to apply it (i). And as to perother description sonal property of every other description, no guards against imposition are provided, by the necessity of an attestation (i); the loosest documents' have been admitted to probate as testamentary dispositions of property, by the Ecclesiastical Courts; and, by the sentence of those Courts, the Court of Chancery is, in this case, bound (k). But, with this qualification, namely, that, although the judg-

sonalty of any need no attestation;

ment

⁽g) Pearson v. Bank of England, 2 Cox, 179.

⁽h) Stat. 33 Geo. 3, c. 28, s. 14, and 35 Geo. 3.

⁽i) Ripley v. Waterworth, 7 Ves. 441, 452.

⁽j) Doker v. Goff, 2 Addams, 46.

⁽k) Downing v. Townsend, Ambl. 280, 595; Lynn v. Beaver, 1 Turn. & Russ. 67; Druce v. Dennison, 6 Ves. 397; Beauchamp v. Earl of Warwick, 5 Ves. 285; Eden v. Smith, 5 Ves. 354; Cox v. Basset, 3 Ves. 160.

ment of the Ecclesiastical Court is necessary, to declare such instrument to be in the nature of a will, yet, the Court of Chancery afterwards examines the circumstances of attestation, and signature, according to its own rules of evidence, where the testamentary paper is to operate as the execution of a power; and does not trust the Ecclesias- unless the dispotical Court with the conclusion, that, because the execution of a writing is testamentary, it must, in Equity, be power. deemed a good appointment (l).

The execution of a will, disposing of real estate, is to be proved by the subscribing witnesses, if devising real they are alive, and can be produced. On a trial estate, is to be proved; at common Law, all the circumstances may be at common Law, proved by a single witness; provided there were actually three witnesses, as the statute of frauds requires (m). But, though the devisee need not call more than one witness, the opposite party may call the other subscribing witnesses. Should one of the witnesses refuse to swear that he saw the testator publish his will, if that fact can be proved by other sufficient testimony, the fraud of the obstinate witness will not be suffered to defeat the testator's will (n). In the Court of Chancery it and in Chancery. is the general rule, never to establish a will unless all the witnesses are examined; because the heir has a right to evidence of sanity from every one of those whom the statute has placed round his ancestor, as guards against fraud. This is not a

How the exe-

(n) Dayrell v. Glasscock,

mere

⁽l) Rich v. Cockell, 9 Ves. 376, 381.

Skinner, 413; Pike v. Badmer-(m) Austey v. Dowsing, 2 ing, cited 2 Str. 1096. Str. 1254.

mere technical rule. The design of the statute was to prevent wills which ought not to be made; and operates silently, but forcibly, by intestacy (o). But, though the general rule of the Court of Chancery be, that, all the subscribing witnesses must be examined (p); yet it would be laying down the rule too largely, to say, that, in no case can a will be proved in Equity without such complete examination (q): It was, long ago, held that, when the best endeavours have been used to discover, and bring forward, a witness; if these efforts are fruitless, the witness may be considered dead (r). is with this qualification we must understand the rule, that, the proof of the death of an attesting witness must be positive (s). An exception to the general rule has been thought reasonable where one of the witnesses was in the West Indies (t): or otherwise not amenable to the jurisdiction of the This last circumstance seems most Court (u). important, for a witness may be abroad; and yet a commission may be sent out to examine him (w). But, in such a case, an account may be decreed in the meantime; even though the will cannot be formally

⁽o) Hindson v. Kersey, 4 Burn's Eccles. Law, 91; Bootle v. Blundell, 19 Ves. 500; S. C. Cooper, 138.

⁽p) Townsend v. Ives, 1 Wils. 216; Ogle v. Cook, 1 Ves. Senr. 177.

⁽q) Powell v. Cleaver, 2 Br. 503.

⁽r) Anonym. Godbolt, 326; M'Kenire v. Fraser, 9 Ves. 6.

⁽s) Bishop v. Burton, Comyn. 614: and see Burrowes v. Lock, 10 Ves. 474.

⁽t) Lord Carrington v. Payne, 5 Ves. 411; Wood v. Stane, 8 Price, 615.

⁽u) Fry v. Wood, 1 Atk. 445.

⁽n) Fitzherbert v. Fitzherbert, 4 Br. 430; Grayson v. Atkinson, 2 Ves. Sear. 460.

formally and finally proved (x). Of course, if one of the witnesses become insane he must be considered as if he were dead (u).

A person who signs his name as witness to a will, by this act of attestation solemnly testifies scribed a will, as the sanity of the testator. Should such witness a witness, may be allowed to afterwards attempt to impeach his own act, and to impeach his own act. prove that the testator did not know what he was doing when he made (what purported to be) his will; though such testimony will be far indeed from conclusive (x): and Lord Mansfield held, that, a witness impeaching his own act, instead of finding credit deserved the pillory (a), yet, Lord Eldon has not gone so far in exclusion of such evidence; admitting, however, that it is to be received with the most scrupulous jealousy (b). Sir John Nicholl has, perhaps, laid down the most distinct rule; namely, that, such testimony is not to be positively rejected; but, at the same time, no fact stated by a witness open to such just suspicion can be relied on, where he is not corroborated by other evidence(c).

How far a person who has sub-

The statute of frauds would be counteracted, if an unattested codicil were permitted to have any operation upon land, unless duly operation attested.

- (x) Fitzherbert v. Fitzherbert, and Wood v. Stane, ubi suprà; Binfield v. Lambert, 1 Dick. 337.
- (y) Bernett v. Taylor, 9 Ves. 382. See, infrà, as to nuncupative wills.
- (z) Hudson's case, Skin. 79; Digg's case, cited ibid.
 - (a) Walton v. Shelley, 1 T.
- R. 300; Lowe v. Jolliffe, 1 W. Bla. 366; S. C. 1 Dick. 389; Goodtitle v. Clayton, 4 Burr. 2225.
- (b) Bootle v. Blundell, 19 Ves. 504; Howard v. Braithwaite, 1 Ves. & Bea. 208.
- (c) Kinleside v. Harrison, 2 Phillim. 499; and see Burrowes v. Lock, 10 Ves. 474.

to a paper written and referred to thereby:

when such estate ance to uses, comes under a different consideration.

duly attested will.

operation upon land, or the produce of land (d); and though, if a testator expressly refer in his will Distinction as to a paper previously written, describing it so before the will, distinctly that there can be no doubt of the identity; and the will be executed in the presence of three witnesses; the paper so referred to, whether attested or not, makes part of the will (e): still the difference between such a case, and a reference to The execution, a future intention, must be evident. Where. inalso, of a power over real estate, deed, the estate has been parted with, by a conveyhas been parted ance to uses, a power overriding such estate, may, with by a convey- if properly reserved, be executed by any prescribed form of instrument; for, such a power is only collateral to the land: but, it would be nugatory in a testator to attempt to reserve to himself, by a will duly attested, a power to dispose by deed. Such a future disposition must be either by act inter vivos, or by will. If by will, to make the disposition valid, as far as it relates to freehold estate, there must be three witnesses. The ownership of the property having been retained, there could be no pretence for referring the act to an execution Effect of a go. of a power (f). It has, indeed, been repeatedly debts, or legacies, decided, that, where a testator has, by a will duly incorporated in a attented about 11. attested, charged his real estate with payment of his debts, or legacies generally, debts afterwards incurred, or legacies subsequently given by unattested codicils, are well charged; but these decisions have gone on the ground, that, such legacies

are

⁽d) Hooper v. Goodwin, 18 jean, 6 Ves. 565. Ves. 166. (f) Habergham v. Vincent, (e) Habergham v. Vincent, 2

Ves. Jun. 228; Smart v. Pru-

ubi suprà. See, post, p. 270.

are not devised out of land, but are only secured by land, previously well devised; and which merely comes in aid of the personalty (g). But, where a general charge is not incorporated in the duly attested will, a power reserved therein, by the testator, to charge such legacies as he may afterwards be disposed to bequeath, upon his real estate, would, upon principles analogous to those established in Habergham v. Vincent, be inoperative (h). However, although, in such a case, new legacies cannot be created; those before given may be modified and altered. The testator cannot, indeed, by an unattested codicil give fresh le- may be substituted for another by gacies charged upon land; unless the duly attest- an unattested ed will contains a general charge; but he may substitute one legatee for another (i).

One legatee

Where the execution of a will has been obtained Equity, though by misrepresentation or fraud, it cannot stand: a will for fraud. but, in this single instance, as we have seen, Courts fraudulent party of Equity have less complete jurisdiction over a trustee. fraud, than other Courts. A Court of Equity may, in certain cases, convert the party taking an interest under such fraudulent instrument into a trustee for the party injured (k): but cannot set aside the will (l). The animus testandi is a necessary con-

it cannot set aside

(g) Habergham v. Vincent, 2 Ves. Junr. 231, 232; Hooper v. Goodwin, 18 Ves. 167; Sheddon v. Goodrich, 8 Ves. 495; Hannis v. Packer, Ambl. 556; Brudenell v. Boughton, 2 Atk. 274.

(h) Rose v. Cunynghame, 12 Ves. 86; Bonner v. Bonner, 13

Ves. 383.

(i) Attorney General v. Ward, 3 Ves. 331.

(k) See infrà.

(l) Andrews v. Powys, 2 Br. P. C. 476, 482, fol. edit.; Kerrich v. Bransby, 3 Br. P. C. 362.

The animus testandi; and free dition agency, necessary to constitute a will;

dition of a valid will; if a man, merely to escape

importunity in his last sickness, sign a paper, professing to be testamentary; this must be deemed, by the competent jurisdiction, an act done under constraint, and not a good will (m). Of course. the case would be still stronger if threats, or actual violence, were employed to procure the execution; but in all cases where parties, from unripeness of age, from mental infirmity, or from any other cause, are unable to form, or freely to express, a fair opinion as to the mode in which their property should be distributed after their death: it would be a contradiction in terms to call an instrument, executed by a person laboring under any such incapatherefore, infants, city, his will. The statutes of wills, therefore, expressly exclude all infants, non compotes, and femes covertes, from the power of devising lands. femer covertes ge- same disability necessarily attaches to persons of non-sane memory with respect to the disposal of At what age personalty. But, the right of determining at what age an infant may make a valid bequest of personal property, rests entirely with the Ecclesiastical Courts (n). Those Courts, it seems to be understood, have established, that, a male infant of fourteen years, and a female, if unmarried, of twelve years of age, may make a will of personal estate (o). Therefore, as a trustee out of Court would not be permitted to change the nature of an infant's property; so, the Court of Chancery itself, which, in such cases, is only a trustee, even when it finds that a change

and non-sane persons, can make no will to pass lands; nor can nerally.

pose of personalty:

the consequent reason for not changing the nature of an infant's property:

> (m) Hacker v. Newborn, 2 Show. 204. Styles, 427. (o) Hyde v. Hyde, Prec. in

(n) Smallwood v. Berthouse, Cha. 816; Anonym. Mosely, 5.

a change would be for the benefit of one of its infant wards, will so deal with the property as not to affect the powers of the infant over the same, even during his infancy; when he has powers over one species of property, not over the other. It may be for the benefit of an infant, in many cases, that money should be laid out in land, if he should live to become adult: but, if he should not, it is a great prejudice to him: taking away his dominion, and the power of disposition he might exercise over personal property, so long before he could devise real estate. On this ground, the Court, if it work or, qualifying the any change by converting money into realty, does not to prejudice so, not to all intents and purposes, but, with this the infant's qualification;—that, if he live, he may take it as sition. real estate; yet, without prejudice to his right over it during infancy, as personal property (p).

power of dispo-

Coverture excludes a woman, of any age, from the right of making a will, either as to lands or may make a disgoods, (except such as she holds merely in autre position of prodroit(q),) unless she has acquired that right by effect after her special assent of her husband (r); or it is a neces-ing in nature of sary incident of property given, or settled, to her separate use (s). Whether such a disposition of property duly made by a feme coverte, and to take place after her death, be, or be not, in technical strictness, a will; or, whether it ought only to be termed an instrument in writing; are critical nice-

In what cases a feme coverte death; by writ-

⁽p) Ex parte Phillips, 19 Ves. 123.

⁽q) Scammel v. Wilkinson, 2 East. 556.

⁽r) S. C. Marriot v. Kinsman, Cro. Car. 220; Eston v.

Wood, Cro. Eliz. 27. (s) Rich v. Cockell, 9 Ves. 375; Fettiplace v. Georges, 3 Br. 10; Tappenden v. Walsh, 1 Phillim. 352; Grigby v. Cox, 1 Ves. Sen. 518.

must be proved cal Court:

ties which have been warmly disputed (t), and Such a writing which, perhaps, yet remain in dubio. Nor, in truth, in the Ecclesiasti- is the decision very imperiously called for; as it is allowed, on all hands, that, such a writing, if not a proper will, is, at least, of a testamentary nature; that, it must receive probate from the Ecclesiastical Court (u); and, that, the Court of Chancery will, then, give it all the effect and operation of a Though, if such testamentary writing power, Chancery be made in execution of a power of appointment. the Court of Chancery will require the witnesses to be examined: for the purpose of holding the instrument to be in the nature of a will, the judgment of the Ecclesiastical Court will be decisive: but, as we have already seen, not so to shew that the appointment has been properly executed (x).

and if made in will (w). execution of a will also examine the witnesses.

By what mode a feme coverte position of real ance, to take effect after her valid at common Law:

Where the wife is empowered by special conmay make a distract, before marriage, to make a will, the husband position of real estate of inherit- cannot, of course, avoid his own engagement: yet, even in this case, such a will, if it relate to real death, so as to be estate of inheritance, (not conveyed in trust,) cannot be supported in a Court of Law (y), to the prejudice of her heir; though, if the estate be limited to uses, with a power reserved to the feme, before marriage, to declare those uses; in this way, her disposal

- (t) Duke of Marlborough v. Lord Godolphin, 2 Ves. Sen. 75; Southby v. Stonehouse, ibid. p. 612; Oke v. Heath, 1 Ves. Senr. 139.
- (u) Ross v. Ewer, 3 Atk. 160; Cothay v. Sydenham, 2 Br. 392; Stevens v. Bagwell, 15 Ves. 153.
- (w) Cotter v. Layer, 2 P. Wms. 623; Henley v. Phillips, 2 Atk. 48.
- (x) Rich v. Cockell, 9 Ves. 376.
- (y) George v. —, Ambl. 628; Hodsden v. Lloyd, 2 Br. 543: Peacock v. Monk, 2 Ves. Sen. 191.

disposal of estates so limited may take effect at common Law (x). But, according to the doctrine and the farther of Courts of Equity, a woman may, antecedently of Equity will to her marriage, retain a power over a legal estate ate such dispoof which she is seised, so as to be enabled to dis-sitions; pose thereof, during her coverture; and, in case she make such a disposition, it is at once effective, provided the prescribed forms have been complied with; if in this respect it be defective, a Court of Equity can, and will, interpose to effectuate it against the heir at Law, if the appointment was made upon a good and meritorious, (though not a valuable) consideration: but, without such consideration the Court will not interfere to aid a defective execution (a). The rule is the same where whether the estate be a legal the wife is only cestui que trust; the legal estate one, or in trust. being outstanding (b).

aid which Courts

Where, by contract before marriage, a wife is . A power given to have free power to make a will during the whole a will not to be coverture; a Court of Equity will not act upon controlled; any subsequent instrument, the object of which is to put that power under control, in any respect (c). It is to be observed, however, that, when a power but where such is given to a married woman to appoint the uses point the uses of of land by will, without more; the will must be land, by will; a duly attested will intended such an one as is proper for the disposi- is necessary, in tion of land; and, consequently, subscribed by

to a wife to make

point the uses of land, by will; a

three

⁽z) Doe v. Steple, 2 T. R.

⁽a) Wright v. Cadogan, 2 Eden, 252; S. C. 6 Br. P. C. 156, (fol. ed.); and see Peacock v. Monk, 2 Ves. Sen. 192;

Rippon v. Dawding, Ambl. 565.

⁽b) Wright v. Englefield, Ambl. 473.

⁽c) Parkes v. White, 11 Ves. 281, 234.

three witnesses in the presence of the testator. For, whether such an instrument be, properly speaking, a will, or only in the nature of a will, it is within all the inconveniences which the statute of frauds intended to prevent (d). But, this rule will be rigidly adhered to, only when the execution of the power is in favor of mere volunteers; where there appears a meritorious consideration, Equity will, as we have just seen, aid a defective execution (e). And, it seems, that, under a special reservation to that effect, a donee of a power, affecting real estate, may well execute the same by a will not attested according to the provisions of the statute of frauds (f).

But a power may contain special reservation dispensing with attestation.

How a feme coverte may acquire a right to dispose of personalty by will:

With respect to the disposal of personalty by the will of a feme coverte, the leading principles seem to be these:—where the marital rights are not, beforehand, limited and restrained by special contract; marriage is, ipso facto, a gift to the husband of all the personal estate actually and beneficially possessed by the wife, in her own right, at that time: or which may subsequently accrue to her,—(if not given to her separate use; and subject in certain cases to her Equity to have a setand where such tlement thereout (g); —during the marriage. The only on her hus- husband may renounce this right for himself, and

will is binding

wave

(d) Long ford v. Eyre, 1 P. Wms. 741; Duff v. Dalzell, 1 Br. 146.

(e) Wilks v. Holmes, 9 Mod. 486; referred to as the leading case on the subject in Shannon v. Bradstreet, 1 Sch. & Lef. 60; Cotter v. Layer, 2 P. Wms. 624.

(f) Bath & Montague's case 3 Cha. Ca. 69: see, however, the dictum of Buller, J. in Goodill v. Brigham, 1 Bos. & Pull. 198. See, ante, p. 264.

(g) Lumbe v. Milnes, 5 Ves. 517: see post.

wave the claim which would invalidate the wife's band, but is void disposition by will, of that which, if not disposed next of kin; even of by his consent, must devolve on him, as her exe-though she vive her huscutor, if he prove the survivor. But, if the hus-band. band die before the wife, her will, made during coverture, is void against her next of kin; the husband, by giving his consent to such will, could only relinquish his personal rights, not those of others; and, if the wife, surviving, make no disposition of her property after the husband's death, she must be held to have died intestate (h). though it was once held, that, if a woman made a will before marriage, and survived her husband, the will would not be countermanded by the espousals, as it was not to take effect till her death, when she was sui juris (i); yet, it seems to be now established, at least as a general rule, that the will of a feme sole ceases to have any operation after she becomes coverte (k): that, marriage alone is a revocation of such will (l); and, that, as by marriage a woman disables herself from making any other will, the existing instrument must necessarily be void; as it is of the very essence of a will that it should always remain ambulatory (m).

Any consent on the part of a husband, given after marriage, that his wife may dispose of personal- tract his consent, ty by will, if such consent rest merely in agreement given after marriage, allowing

as against her

In what case a husband may rebetween his wife to make

⁽h) Stevens v. Bagwell, 15 Ves. 156.

⁽i) Brett v. Rigden, Plowd.

⁽k) Doe v. Staple, 2 T. R. 695.

⁽¹⁾ Cotter v. Layer, 2 P. Wms. 624.

⁽m) Hodsden v. Lloyd, 2 Br. 544; Matthews v. Warner, 4 Ves. 210; Hobson v. Blackburne, 1 Addams, 278.

between the parties themselves, and be not guaran-

tied by bond, may be retracted, at any time before assent given by the husband to the probate of such will (n). It has even been said, (and that by a Judge of no less name than Lord Nottingham,) that, although the wife should make the husband her executor, and he prove the will, yet, he is no farther bound than in honor to perform it (o). With submission, however, he certainly would seem, in such case, to be further bound, by the oath, which is required from every executor before probate is granted to him, that, he will truly perform the will, An agreement and pay all the legacies of the deceased (p). by the nusband though in Chiswell v. Blackwell it was declared, be at liberty to dispose by will; if that, if a bond be given to perform the will of a married woman, and she make a will, it hath the import in Equity, not on- of a writing, and nothing else; yet, an agreement the husband, but, manifested by such a bond, given by the husband of the wife's heir, in respect of her before marriage, would, indisputably, be binding on the husband himself; and would estop the claims of the wife's heir, in respect of her freehold This decision, of Lord Camden's, went to the point which Lord Hardwicke had previously thrown out, but which the last named Judge was not called on to determine. cock v. Monk (r), Lord Hardwicke put the question thus:-Can a woman, by bare agreement, before marriage, without doing any thing to alter the nature

by the husband evidenced by bond, will estop, ly the claims of real estate.

(n) Swinb. part 2, sect. 9.

Anon. 1 Ventr. 335: and see Brook v. Turner, 2 Mod. 172.

⁽o) Chiswell v. Blackwell, 2 Freem. 70.

⁽p) Lindw. 177; Rex v. Raines, 1 Lord Raym. 363;

⁽q) Rippon v. Dawding, Ambi. 565.

⁽r) 2 Ves. Senr. 191, 192.

nature of the estate, bar her heir? If so, his Lordship intimated, it must be upon the principle, that, the agreement would give the wife a right to come into a Court of Equity, after marriage, to compel the husband to carry his engagement into execution, and to join with her in a fine to resettle the estate; and, then, the consideration would be, whether her heir at law was not bound by the consequences of that agreement? The affirmative was resolved, as we have seen, by Lord Camden; as it had, previously, been by the highest tribunal of the realm (s). And, as against the husband, a bond given by him after the marriage, for the purpose bond, given after of securing to his wife permission to make a will marriage to allow his wife to beof personalty, has been held obligatory, even at queath personalty, is obligatory. common Law (t); as also, that the disposition made by her, if not good strictly as a will, should operate as an appointment: which decision appears to have been recognized as sound law, by Lord Hardwicke (u).

And, as against the husband, his

Since the incapacity of a feme coverte to make a will arises out of a consideration partly of her de- of all legal rights, pendent situation, which subjects her to undue in- the wife may make a will as if fluence, and partly out of a regard to the marital she were a feme sole. rights of her husband; where neither of these causes can operate, it is but just that the effect should cease: when the husband, therefore, is, by competent authority divested of all legal rights, or banished

Where the husband is divested

⁽s) Wright v. Cadogan, 6 Br. Parl. Ca. 156, fol. edit.

⁽t) Marriot v. Kinsman, Cro. Car. 219.

⁽i) Duke of Marlborough v. Lord Godolphin, 2 Ves. Senr.

banished for life, the wife may make a will as if she were a feme sole (w).

Stock transferred into the name man, survives to her, if her husduced it into his

Stock, transferred into the name of a married of a married we- woman as next of kin of an intestate, (or, it should seem, in any other right,) will survive to her, on band never re- the death of her husband, and not belong to his own possession. representatives; if he, in his lifetime, did no act reducing into his own possession what is considered as a mere right; the interest in stock being. properly, nothing but a right to receive a redeemable annuity; and the demand of dividends as they become due having no resemblance to a chattel capable of possession and manual apprehension (x).

A promise, by which the insertrust:

Should an heir, or personal representative, whose tion of a bequest interests would be affected by the regular insertion in a will is prevented, raises a of a bequest in a will, induce the testator to omit making a formal provision for an intended object of his bounty, by assurances, that, the testator's wishes shall be as fully executed as if the bequest were formally made; this promise and undertaking will raise a trust; which, though not available at common Law, will be enforced in Equity, on the As a silent as ground of fraud (y). And such an engagement ed engagement, may be entered into, not only by words, but, by will, in such case, equally do; silent assent to such a proposed undertaking; which, under these circumstances, will equally raise

sent to a propos-

(w) Countess of Portland v. Prodgers, 2 Vern. 103.

(x) Wildman v. Wildman, 9 Ves. 177; The King v. Capper, 5 Pr. 263; Scawen v. Blunt, 7 Ves. 300.

Ves. & Bea. 262; Mestaer v. Gillespie, 11 Ves. 688; Stickland v. Aldridge, 9 Ves. 519; Barron v. Greenough, & Ves. 154; Chamberlayne v. Chamberlayne, 2 Freem. 34; Old-(y) Chamberlain v. Agar, 2 . ham v. Litchford, 2 Freem. 285.

raise a trust (x). And, of course, the case would a fortieri, where be still stronger, if the due insertion of the be- the bequest is quest in the will had been prevented by any vio-prevented by lent interference (a).

the insertion of

If a pecuniary legacy be bequeathed by will not attested as by law is required for the purpose of estate, is raised passing freehold estate; but, under an express con- by an unattested will; and when dition to give up a real estate, by that unattested not. will attempted to be disposed of; this condition, expressed in the body of the will, raises a case of election. But, if there be nothing in the will further than a mere devise of real estate, such unattested instrument is not capable of being read in a Court as to that part; and unless, according to an express condition, the legacy was so given that the legatee should not take without complying with that condition, it is not a case of election. The reason of that distinction, if it were res integra, might be questionable; but, it has been too long settled to be brought into doubt (b). Subject to this qualification, it is one of the plainest geto this qualification, it is one of the plainest ge-neral principles of Equity, that, a person who ac-ty, that no one cepts a benefit under a will, must not refuse compliance with the conditions (if legal) with which fuse compliance the bounty was coupled (c). This doctrine ex- tions with which tends to every other species of instrument as well it is coupled; extends to other as to wills (d); but, though the principle be the instruments, as well as wills:

When a case of

with the condi-

(z) Byrn v. Godfrey, 4 Ves. 10; Paine v. Hall, 18 Ves.

(a) Dixon v. Olmius, 1 Cox, 414: see ante, pp. 265, 266.

(b) Sheddon v. Goodrich, 8 Ves. 497; Thelluson v. Woodford, 18 Ves. 223; Ex parte The Earl of Ilchester, 7 Ves. 372, 378. See post, p. 277.

(c) Lady Cavan v. Pulteney, 2 Ves. Junr. 500; Whistler v. Webster, ibid. p. 37%.

(d) Cummins v. Forester, 2

tion seems more rigid with respect to deeds, than to wills; non-compliance with a condition in the former, causes a total forthe latter case, compensation to party seems sufficient.

and its applica- same, its application seems to be more restricted with respect to wills. An express condition in a deed, or settlement, must be strictly performed, or a total forfeiture will be incurred: but, it may be at least questioned, whether, when an implied confeiture; but, in dition arises under a will, the devisee is bound to do more than make compensation, for withholding the disappointed that which was intended by the testator for ano-The authorities upon the subject are ther (e). various, not to say irreconcilable; they were reviewed, in a modern case, by Lord Eldon; and the leaning of his Lordship's opinion seems, pretty plainly, (according to Mr. Vesey's report,) to have been, that, as applied to a will, the doctrine of election does not infer the necessity of a literal compliance with the will, on pain of a total forfeiture; but, that the devised interest is to be sequestered quousque, as the phrase is; or, until satisfaction be made to the disappointed object of the testator's bounty (f).

Generally speaking, a devise not duly executed will not raise a case of election:

A will, purporting to dispose of real estate, if not executed according to the statute of frauds, can have no operation, even to raise a case of elec-

tion.

Jac. & Walk. 345; Moore v. Butler, 2 Sch. & Lef. 266.

(e) Welby v. Welby, 2 Ves. & Bea. 191; Dashwood v. Peyton, 18 Ves. 49; Blake v. Bunbury, 1 Ves. Junr. 523; Rancliffe v. Parkins, 6 Dow, 179; and see other cases collected under the head of " Settlement and Conveyance."

(f) Green v. Green, 19 Ves. 669; S. C. 2 Meriv. 95. That

such was the inclination of his Lordship's judgment, will appear confirmed by a reference to his subsequent observation in Rancliffe v. Parkins, ubi suprà; and to his previous decision in Dashwood v. Peyton, also before cited. The best comments on judicial dicta, must always be decisions, made by the same Judge, in consimili casu.

tion, against a person taking a benefit in the personal estate (g): unless such benefit be given upon but, where pera condition, distinctly expressed in the body of queathed, subthe imperfectly attested will, that, the legatee shall condition affectnot take the benefit intended for him, unless he ing land; there, although the will will give up a real estate, by such unattested will has not three witattempted to be disposed of. There, as we have cy cannot be before seen, the party cannot claim his legacy, if claimed till the he refuse to comply with the express condition on which it is made to depend (h). The doctrine of election is utterly inapplicable to creditors taking enforced against the benefit of a devise for payment of debts, and also enforcing their legal rights against other funds disposed of by the same will of their debtor (i).

In all cases to which the doctrine of election applies, Courts of Equity, whilst they enforce the compelled before the value of the rule, that a party shall not claim both under and in several interests is ascertained; total contradiction to a will, secure to him an option; and will not conclude him by equivocal acts, performed, possibly, in ignorance of the value of the respective interests; nor compel him to make his election before that point is ascertained (k): for which purpose he is at liberty to file a bill to for which purhave the accounts taken, and the property cleared; pose the party may file a bill to that he may elect to the best advantage (l).

. A valid election by a feme coverte, it has been

nesses, the lega-

Election not

Election not

havetheaccounts

How the election of a feme co-

said.

(g) Ex parte The Earl of Ilchester, 7 Ves. 372; Thelluson v. Woodford, 13 Ves. 223.

- (h) Sheddon v. Goodrich, 8 Ves. 497; Boughton v. Boughton, 1 Ves. Senr. 15: see, ante.
 - (i) Kidney v. Cousmaker, 12

Ves. 154.

- (k) Dillon v. Parker, 1 Swanst. 381; Chalmers v. Storil, 2 Ves. & Bea. 225.
- (1) Butricke v. Broadhurst, 1 Ves. Jun. 172; Wake v. Wake, ibid. p. 836; Kidney v. Cousmaker, 12 Ves. 153.

verte must be de- said, can be made only on personal appearance in clared, generally speaking; and why that form is required:

Court, or, if she be resident abroad, before commissioners duly appointed: otherwise, her husband might make a collusive bargain, with a view to his own exclusive interests (m). And this principle, at least, if not the form, will be enforced, in protection of the wife, although her election should have the effect of ousting the husband's contingent claim to become tenant by the courtesy: for that interest is only an emanation from the wife's esbut such election tate (n). But it has been decided, that, although may also be in-ferred, from her the election of a feme coverte has not been made continued enjoy-ment of one of the in the prescribed form above mentioned, it may be judicially inferred, from her continued acceptance and enjoyment of one of the interests, between which she had to choose (o). As the rights ants may compel the election of a of other claimants under a will may be materially feme coverts within a reason. affected by a delay on the part of a married woman in making her election; she will, on a proper application, be directed to elect within a limited time (p): if she fail to do this, it will be referred to one of the Masters to inquire which claim would be most beneficial to her; and, upon the coming in of his report, a decretal order will be made in conformity thereto (q).

interests.

Other claimfeme coverte able time.

A widow can be compelled to elect between

With respect to election by widows between dower and provisions under the wills of their hus-

- (m) Parsons v. Dunne, 2 Ves. Senr. 61.
- (n) Lady Cavan v. Pulteney, 2 Ves. Jun. 560.
- (o) Ardesoife v. Bennet, 2 Dick. 467: see post, p. 281.
 - (p) Vane v. Lord Dungan-

bands. non, 2 Sch. & Lef. 133.

(q) Earl of Darlington v. Pulteney, 3 Ves. 885; Lady Cavan v. Pulteney, ubi suprà; Davis v. Page, 9 Ves. 351; Wilson v. Townsend, 2 Vet. Jun. 696.

bands, it seems well established, that, as dower is dower and a proa legal right, the intention to exclude that right, husband's will, by a bequest, must be demonstrated, if not by ex- only when the intention to raise press words, at least by necessary implication. is only where the claim of dower would be inconsistent with the will, or plainly tend to defeat some other part of the testator's disposition of his property, that the widow can be compelled to elect (r). Of course, a bequest of personalty, unless an intention to that effect be distinctly expressed, can never operate in bar of dower (s): nor will a devise even a devise of of part of the lands out of which a widow might part of the lands will not, necesclaim dower, bar that claim with respect to the remainder of such lands (t), unless the terms of the dower out of the devise express, or clearly imply, that, it was the testator's intent, the bequest of part of the lands should be in satisfaction of dower in the remainder (u).

It such election is

An able writer (w) has observed, that, the adjudged cases say nothing as to the question whe- whole or the nusther, when the whole of the husband's lands are devised to his widow, she may devised to his widow, she may take two-thirds of take two-thirds them as a purchaser under the will, and the remain- the other third By ana- dower. ing one-third under her title to dower.

Where the whole of the husas purchaser, and under her title to

logy,

- (r) Strahan v. Sutton, 3 Ves. 252; Thompson v. Nelson, 1 Cox, 447; Pearson v. Pearson, 1 Br. 292; Birmingham v. Kirwan, 2 Sch. & Lef. 452; Greatrex v. Cary, 6 Ves. 616.
- (s) Ayres v. Willis, 1 Ves. Senr. 230.
- (t) Lawrence y. Lawrence, 1 Br. P. C. 591; S. C. 2 Freem.

284; Birmingham v. Kirwan, 2 Sch. & Lef. 454; Lord Dorchester v. Lord Effingham, Cooper, 324; Hitchins v. Hitchins, 2 Freem. 241.

- (u) Chalmers v. Storil, 2 Ves. & Bea. 224.
- (w) Mr. Roper: see his Treat. on Husb. and Wife, vol. 1, p. 561, 562.

logy, however, it is inferred, that, she may do so. And, where the lands have been incumbered during the marriage, the advantage which the widow may derive from enjoying one-third by title paramount, and therefore free from such incumbrances, is obvious (x).

A devise to a widow of a contingent remainder for life, of lands out of able, does not exdiate title to dower.

The immediate title to dower, it is settled, will not be excluded, by implication from a devise to the widow of a contingent remainder, for life, in which she is dow- the very lands out of which she demands dower: clude her immethere is nothing inconsistent in the two interests (y): and, where a clear, incontrovertible, result does not arise from the husband's will, that he meant to exclude his widow from dower, she will not be put to election: he may not have known, that, she was, under the circumstances, dowable; but, that will not do: it must appear, that, he did know it, and meant to bar her: or, that, what she demands, is repugnant to the dispositions he has made (x).

The title to dower will not be barred by a mere devise of the husband's estates ed with either a annuity, to his widow:

A devise to trustees of all a testator's real estates, in trust, in the first place, to pay a certain sum to his widow, will not, of itself, afford a suftotrustees, charge ficient indication of the testator's intention, to bar gross sum, or an the right of dower (a). Upon a similar principle, if the testator has devised his estates to trustees. charged, not with payment of a gross sum, but, with

(x) The author just cited adds, that "for the remaining two-thirds she would be able to contribute with the owners of the remainder of the lands, in discharge of the incumbrances;" he therefore, evidently, intends to put the case of a devise to the

widow for life, with remainder over.

- (y) Incledon v. Northcote, 3 Atk. 435.
- (z) French v. Davies, 2 Ves. Jun. 577, 581.
- (a) Thompson v. Nelson, 1 Cox, 447.

with an annuity to his widow: still, as a wife's title to dower is paramount, it seems, according to the current of modern decisions, (though it has, formerly, been held otherwise (b), a Court of Equity will not infer, that, because a testator has given all his property to trustees, it was necessarily his intention to give them that which was not his (c). But, though this would be inadmissible but, where other as a general construction, circumstances may just trust would be tify it (d); if the estates would be insufficient to defeated if the title to dower satisfy the charges expressly imposed upon them, were sustained, that might shew in case the title to dower was sustained; that an intention to bar the claim of might shew an intention to bar the claim of dow-dower. er; and, it seems, a reference to ascertain that fact will be granted (e).

objects of the

Where an annuity is bequeath-

marries again;

If a testator bequeath to his wife £1,000 per annum in lieu of dower, but, with a proviso, that, ed in lieu of dowin case she marries again, she shall have only er, with a pro-£100 per annum, in lieu of all benefits which, it incase the widow was the testator's meaning, should arise to her out the widow may of all his real and personal estates; this proviso will not prevent the widow's right of election: but, on the other hand, she cannot take both her dower and the annuity of £100 per annum (f).

It

- (b) Arnold v. Kempstead, 2 Eden, 236; Villa-Real v. Lord Galway, Ambl. 683.
- (c) Foster v. Cook, 3 Br. 351; Pitts v. Snowden, 1 Br. 292, note; Greatrex v. Carey, 6 Ves. 616; Birmingham v. Kirwan, 2 Sch. & Lef. 453.
- (d) Druce v. Dennison, 6 Ves. 400.
- (e) Pearson v. Pearson, 1 Br. 292; French v. Davies, 2 Ves. Jun. 580.
- (f) Boynton v. Boynton, 1 Br. 446: quære, whether the election ought not to be made in the first instance, and not delayed till the widow has had long enjoyment of the larger provision? see, ante, p. 278.

It is clear, that, if a man devise his real estate

If a man devise his heir, giving sion in har of dower; should the devise lapse, the estate exonerated from dower.

contract, the wife all claims as to her hasband's personalty; there, if he die intestate, his next of kin take the whole: but, where the upon contract, and the particuhusband's bounhis will, cannot is not barred.

A proviso, in a deed of separation, that the titled to her exactly as if she

land away from his heir, after giving his widow a provision his wife a provi- in lieu, satisfaction, and bar of dower; and the devisce die in the lifetime of the devisor; the heir the heir will take will take the estate, exonerated from the widow's claim of dower. She could not say her dower was intended to be satisfied only in favor of that devisce, and not for the general benefit of the real es-So, where, by tate. A similar principle applies with respect to to cases where it has been agreed by has relinquished personalty, in cases where it has been agreed by contract, before marriage, that, the wife's claims in respect thereof shall be barred: there, although the husband die intestate, the next of kin take, without any reference to the widow. But, where out, where the case does not turn upon contract, and it merely appears, that, a testator has given his wife lar objects of the a provision by will, which he meant to be a satisty, designated by faction for any claim she might have, interfering take, the widow with the other express objects of his bounty: if. by accident, those objects should be unable to claim the benefit of that exclusion, no other persons can set it up against the widow; and her claim under the statute of distributions will not be barred (g).

A deed of separation however, containing a proviso, that, if the wife shall survive the husband, wife shall be en- and be living separate from him at the time of his thirds of the hus- death, she shall be entitled to her thirds of his perband's personal-ty at his death, sonalty, any thing in the said deed of separation were living with to the contrary notwithstanding: will be construed.

not

⁽g) Pickering v. Lord Stem-Robinson, 2 Meriv. 394; Warford, 3 Ves. 330; S. C. on aping w. Ward, 5 Ves. 676: see peal, ibid. p. 498; Leake v. post.

not as an absolute covenant, on the part of the hus- him; will not preband, to leave her such a portion of his personal of the whole, by estate as she would be entitled to under the statute of distributions; but, that, although living separate, she should take just as she would if living with her husband: and that agreement could not interfere with his testamentary dispositions, or prevent his bequeathing his personal property, as if no such proviso had been inserted in the deed of separation (h).

If a man, on his marriage, covenant, that, his executors shall, within three months after his de- under her huscease, pay to his wife, if she survive him, a certain band's intestacy, held a performsum; should the husband die intestate, and the ance of his covenant, that his exwife become entitled under the statute of distribu- ecutors should tions to a larger sum than that mentioned in the sum. covenant; this distributive share will be taken in performance of the said covenant: such a construction would be still more unobjectionable in a case where the wife, as administratrix, could immediately pay herself (i): though it has been repeatedly decided, that, this circumstance is not necessary to support the principle; indeed it is plain, that, if it were, the rule would become inoperative altogether, as the widow would of course never take out administration, if the effect were to be that of barring claims, which she might otherwise make available (k). And a Court of Equity will not re- Equity will not

pay her a smaller

gard regard the slight

⁽h) Cochrane v. Graham, 19 Ves. 65.

Goldsmid, 1 Swanst. 217. (k) Gartshore v. Chalie, 10

⁽i) Blandy v. Widmore, 1 P. Wms. 324; Twisden v. Twisden, 9 Ves. 426; Goldsmid v.

Ves. 12; Lee v. Cox, 3 Atk. 421.

distinction of ence as to time: satisfaction.

gard the nice distinction between "leaving" and "leaving" and "paying;" nor whether the payment is to be withtrifling differin three or six months: which difference although in three or six months; which difference, although which is of less in cases of satisfaction, (where the parties did not of performance, stand in the relation of parent and child,) it has than in cases of been considered material, has little weight with Courts of Equity in cases of performance (1).

But, where a covenant for the benefit of the wife, requiring performance in the husband's lifetime, has been thus constituted, which will not be satisfied by a distributive share under his intestacy; nor by a benefit given by his will; ter case the terms raise a case of election.

But, where a covenant for some pecuniary benefit to the wife has been so framed as to require performance in the lifetime of the husband: and such covenant has been broken by him, so as broken, a debt is to constitute a debt before his death; this debt would not be satisfied by any uncertain interest the wife might derive, in case of his intestacy, under the statute of distributions (m): for, where the question is one of satisfaction, the rule is, that, the though in the lat- satisfaction must be complete; and a debt can only of the gift may be satisfied by something equally certain and beneficial (n). It is, also, a general rule, that, nothing can be considered a satisfaction, which is not exactly of the same nature: this rule applies equally to cases of testacy or intestacy, unless, in the former case, there be such a clear indication of the testator's intention as may make an election indispensable (o).

Land no satisfaction for moStill, although, as a general rule, land be no satisfaction

- (l) Gartshore v. Chalie, 10 Ves. 8, 13: see, infrà, as to Satisfaction of Portions.
- (m) Oliver v. Brickland, cited in Lee v. Cox, 3 Atk. 422. · (n) Couch v. Stratton, 4 Ves. 394; Crompton v. Sale, 2 P. Wms. 554; Graham v. Gra-
- ham, 1 Ves. Senr. 263.
- (o) Barrett v. Beckford, 1 Ves. Senr. 521; Eastwood v. Vincke, 2 P. Wms. 616; Forsight v. Grant, 1 Ves. Junt. 298; Richardson v. Elphinstone, 2 Ves. Junr. 464; Devese v. Pontet, 1 Cox, 192.

tisfaction for money, nor money for land; yet, it ney; nor money does not necessarily follow, that, the rule which rule, that, noholds nothing to be a satisfaction which is not pre-thing is a satisfaction of a claim cisely ejusdem generis, is universally applicable; which is not precisely ejusdem on the contrary, it appears to have been held, that, generis, not unia portion, though not a debt, may be satisfied by the bequest of a residue; where the amount of such residue, though not precisely ascertained, clearly exceeds that of the portion (p).

Where the question is one, not of satisfaction, - but, of performance, the same principles are appli- question is one of performance, not ed to a part performance as if it were complete: of satisfaction, a distributive share thus, if the distributive share accruing to a woman accruing under a under her husband's intestacy would, if equal in testacy, though amount, be a performance of her husband's cove- than the sum conant, securing to her a certain sum; there, if the venanted for, is a performance pro distributive share prove less than she was entitled ianto. to by covenant, it will still be a performance pro tanto(q). And though Lord Thurlow appears to have considered this as a point by no means settled in his time (r); yet his Lordship did not decide in contradiction to the rule above stated: indeed, the case before his Lordship hardly called for any observation on the subject; as that case turned upon a special proviso in a settlement.

An observation made by Sir Wm. Grant, that, The proviso in the statute of dis the provision in the statute of distributions, as to tributions, rebringing all advancements to children into hotch-quiring children into hotch-quiring children

covenantor's inless in amount

pot.

(p) Bengough v. Walker, 15 Ves. 513; Rickman v. Morgan, 2 Br. 394: and see Gartshore v. Chalie, 10 Ves. 13, 15: all which qualify'the dictum as to residue, in Devese v. Pontet.

(q) Gartshore v. Chalie, 10 Ves. 14. See, suprà, p. 283.

· (r) Kirkman v. Kirkman, 2 Br. 100.

shall be a performance, in whole or in part, of his covenant that she should receive a fixed sum at his death.

to be brought in- pot, applies only to the case of actual intestacy (a): to botch-pot, applies only to cases has been thought(t) repugnant to the doctrine, that, of actual intesta-cy: but this has the distributive share of a widow, in the case of a nothing, appa-rently, to do with the doctrine that ance of a covenant by which the husband engaged we taken by a that she should receive a fixed sum at his death: quan intestacy of provided her share prove equal to that sum (w). her husband, The requirement The repugnancy is not clear, and the objection seems hyper-critical: Sir Thomas Plumer did not say, in Goldsmid v. Goldsmid, that, in the case of an equitable intestacy, the property was distributshle under the statute: nor did Sir William Grant assert. in Walton v. Walton, that, there would be any difference as to the quantum of benefit which a widow would take under an actual or a quasi intestacy. If, therefore, the widow obtain, in both cases equally, that for which she contracted, it seems difficult to contend, that, a share taken under an equitable intestacy is not a performance; when the same share taken under an absolute intestacy indisputably is so. Every rule and principle established in one case applies to the other: the doctrine in both turns upon the fact, that, the widow, in that character, receives a proportion of the assets, by operation of Law, equalling, or exceeding, the amount which she was entitled to receive under her marriage contract (w). To hold that to be no performance in one of these cases, which

⁽s) Walton v. Walton, 14 Ves. 324: see, as to hotch-pot,

⁽t) 2 Rop. Husb. & Wife, 52.

⁽u) Goldsmid v. Goldsmid, 1

Swanst, 221.

⁽w) S. C. ibid. Wilson v. Piggott, 2 Ves. Junr. 356; Richardson v. Elphinstone, 2 . Ves. Junr. 464.

which is clearly a performance in the other, would be to proceed on "those nice distinctions and very slight arguments, which" (in the words of Lord Hardwicke) "would never stand with the judgment of mankind (x)."

A wife cannot claim under a bequest to the Generally next of kin to her husband (y); nor a husband under a similar bequest to, or settlement in favor of, claim under a bequest to the next the next of kin to his wife (x): for, as a general of kin to his wife; rule, no one is held to come within this description, who is not included in the provisions of the relations by statute of distributions, which, it has been judicially decided, by the word "kindred," means only relations by blood(a). And the same construction naturally arises upon the statute for regulation of probates (b). But, although the prima facie con-but Equity will struction of a bequest by a man to his "next of kin" look through the be in exclusion of his wife; (and, of course, the whether this same principle applies, matatis mutandis, where struction of the the bequest is to a woman's next of kin;) yet, on kin" be not conthe other hand, it is competent to, and required apparent inten-from, a Court of Equity to look through the whole too, will; and to see whether, from the whole, an intention appear manifested to include the wife amongst those who, in strictness, are the next of kin:

primă facie conwords " next of

(x) Lee v. Cox, 3 Atk. 422.

1 Swanst. 39.

⁽y) Davies v. Bailey, 1 Ves. Senr. 84; Worsley v. Johnson, 3 Atk. 761.

⁽z) Anderson v. Dawson, 15 Ves. 537; Bailey v. Wright, 18 Ves. 55; S. C. on appeal,

⁽a) Davies v. Bailey, ubi suprà; Worsley v. Johnson, ubi

⁽b) Stat. 21 Hen. 8, c. 5, s. 3: see Watt v. Watt. 3 Ves. 247.

kin; a description which, in the ordinary sense of the word, she does not answer (c).

A widow's red to the claims of legatecs; but not to those of creditors, where the latter have

The right of a widow to bona paraphernalia is right to para-phernalis prefer preferable to that of a legatee, but, it should seem clear, it ought to give place to the demands of her deceased husband's creditors (d): though this last restriction appears to have been qualified, so far of satisfying their as to delay payment of debts, by the decisions demands. which hold, that, where creditors would not ultimately suffer, the widow is entitled to her paraphernalia, notwithstanding her husband's personal estate be insufficient to satisfy his debts, if he have devised a real estate, subject to a charge in aid of his personal assets (e).

We have seen, that, a feme coverte will be compelled to elect between two conflicting interests. within a reasonable time; in order that other just claims may not be affected by her delay; and also, that, a reference to the Master to determine for her is not unusual. The principle seems equally applicable to the case of an infant; but the preinfant, which of ponderance of decided cases, in point of number. under a will he at least, appears to establish, that, a Court of Equity cannot elect for an infant, which of two provisions under a will he shall abide by; but that, such election must be suspended until he reach his

Whether a Court of Equity can elect for an two provisions shall abide by?

> (c) Garrick v. Lord Camden, 14 ·Ves. 382.

2 Freem. 63.

⁽d) Campion v. Cotton, 17 Ves. 273; Tipping v. Tipping, 1 P. Wms. 729; Flay v. Flay,

⁽e) Boynton v. Boynton, 1 Cox, 106; Northey v. Northey, 2 Atk. 78: and see Tipping v. Tipping, ubi suprà.

his full age (f); or, in case of a portion payable at an earlier period, until such portion become due(g). There are, however, several authorities for concluding an infant, in such cases, by a reference to the Master (h): and there seems sound principle for maintaining, that, the incapacity of a party to elect for himself, ought not to delay the distribution of property, to the prejudice of others (i).

By the 19th section of the statute of frauds, it is enacted, that, no nuncupative will shall be good, ing against fraud where the personal estate thereby bequeathed ex- un setting up no cupative wills: ceeds the value of thirty pounds, unless it be proved by the oaths of three witnesses who were present at the making thereof; and unless it be also proved, that, the testator, at the time of pronouncing the same, bade the persons present bear witness, that, such was his will, or to that effect; and unless such nuncupative will were made during at what time, and the last sickness of the deceased, and in the house in what place, they ought to be of his habitation, where he hath been resident ten made. days at least before the making of such will; except where such person was surprized by sudden illness when absent from his home, and died before he returned to the place of his dwelling. But. the

Legislative pre-cautions, guardin setting up nun-

to be proved; and

(f) Bor v. Bor, 5 Br. P. C. 173, fol. edit.; Thomas v. Gyles, 2 Vern. 232; Streatfield v. Streatfield, Ca. temp. Talb. 188; Boughton v. Boughton, 2 Ves. Sen. 16: and see Moore v. Butler, 2 Sch. & Lef. 267.

(g) Rushout v. Rushout, 3 Br. P. C. 138; Hervey v. Desbouverie, Ca. temp. Talb. 136. (h) Chetwynd v. Fleetwood, 4 Br. P. C. 440; Goodwyn v. Goodwyn, 1 Ves. Sen. 228; Bigland v. Huddleston, 3 Br. 285, note; Gretton v. Haward, 1 Swanst. 413.

23rd

(i) Wilson v. Townsend, 2 Ves. Jun. 697.

to soldiers and service.

Such wills ought to be rebal disposition:

And probate thereof not to be dow or next of kin.

not repeal a preative, written will.

Exception as 23rd section of the statute provides, that, soldiers, to somers and sailors, on actual being in actual military service; or seamen, being at sea; may dispose of their personal estate as they might have done before the act was passed. The 20th section of the act declares, that, when duced into writ. six months have passed after the speaking of the ing, within six days after the ver. pretended testamentary words, no testimony shall be received to prove any nuncupative will; except the said testimony, or the substance thereof, were committed to writing within six days after the making of the said will. And, by the 21st section, thereof not to be granted, without as a further security against fraud, it is enacted, notice to the wi- that, no probate of any nuncupative will shall be granted till fourteen days, at least, after the decease of the testator; nor at any time afterwards, unless process have issued to call in the widow or next of kin to the deceased; to the end, that, they A nuncupative may contest the said will if they please. will, unless committed to writing section prohibits the operation of any nuncupative in the lifetime of disposition, in repeal or alteration of any will in the testator, and read to him, can-writing; unless the will declared by word of mouth vious, and oper be, in the lifetime of the testator, committed to writing, and read to, and approved by, him: but, if a legacy, given by a written will, lapse, or be void; quatenus the subject of such legacy there is no written will; and a nuncupative codicil is quasi an original will for so much; not an alteration of that disposition which had previously become determined(j).

A nuncupative will is rendered void by the death of one witness

The opportunities of committing fraud would be so great, if any laxity in the proof of nuncupative wills were admitted, that, more strict caution is, properly,

(j) Stonywell's case, T. Raym. 334.

properly, observed with regard to these, than, in thereto, before it some respects, is applied to wills regularly made. ly proved. Thus, as we have seen, at common Law a devisee is not bound to prove the execution of the will by the oath of more than one of the attesting witnessess; and, it may be added, that, if all the witnesses be dead, still the will may be proved (k), by proper evidence of the handwriting of the testator and the witnesses: and, though the Court of Chancery, as a general rule, requires the examination of all the witnesses, yet we have adduced numerous cases of well founded exception to that rule (1): but, with respect to nuncupative wills, the statute of frauds is imperative, that, such will must be proved by the oaths of three witnesses; not merely that three witnesses shall have been present. The death of one of the witnesses before such proof has formally been made, will render the nuncupative will void; however clear and unquestioned the evidence of two surviving witnesses to the transaction may be (m).

But, though a nuncupative will, if deficient in any of the forms prescribed by the statute, cannot nuncupative distake effect as a will, it may be sufficient to raise a take effect as a trust; if the circumstances are such that the mis-cient in any of chief which the statute of frauds and perjuries was ed by the statute; Thus, it may, (in some cases) be suffiintended to prevent cannot possibly arise. where a testatrix, having previously devised her cient to raise a trust: whole personal property to her mother, on her death-bed desired her said mother, if she thought

But, though a position cannot

will, when defi-

the forms requir-

⁽k) Brice v. Smith, Willes, 2; Croft v. Pawlet, 2 Str. 1109. (l) See, ante, p. 262.

⁽m) Phillips v. The Parish of St. Clements Dane, 1 Equ. Ca. Ab. 404.

fit, to give the niece of the testatrix a certain sum:

though there was no ground for holding this to be a legacy, as the words were not reduced into writing within the prescribed time; vet, as the mother, by her answer to a bill in Equity, admitted the facts, these were held to create a trust. It was observed, however, that, if the defendant had, insisted on the statute of frauds and perjuries, the Court would not, as this case stood, have relieved for it is not unt- the plaintiff as upon a trust; (though it is not unisary that a trust versally necessary, that a trust relating to personalrelating to personalty should be created by writing,) but, here, the desonalty should be created by writ- fendant having confessed the trust, there was no danger of perjury; and, therefore, the case came

not within the purview of the act(n).

versally necesing.

Enactments of the statute of fraudulent devises, in favor of specialty creditors.

Antecedently to the statute of fraudulent devises (o), a debtor had it in his power to disappoint his specialty creditors of all remedy, for their just debts, against his lands, by devising them: but, by this statute it is enacted, that, all wills, dispositions, or appointments, of or concerning lands or hereditaments, (or any profit or charge out of the same,) whereof any person at the time of his decease shall be seised in fee simple, in possession, reversion or remainder, or have power to dispose of the same by his last will; shall, as against his specialty creditors, their heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, be taken to be fraudulent, and clearly, absolutely, and utterly void.

Limitations for payment of just The 4th section of the statute, however, contains

(n) Jones v. Nabbe, Gilb. 404. (o) Stat. 3 Will. & Mar. cap. Rep. in Eq. 146; S. C. by pame of Nab v. Nab, 10 Mod. 14.

tains an exception; and provides that, any limita-debts; or of tion, appointment, or devise of lands for payment younger childof just debts, or any portion, or sum of money, for in pursuance of contract before any child of any person, other than the heir at law, marriage, excepted out of the act. in pursuance of any written marriage-contract, bona fide made before such marriage, shall be of full force, and effectual for such estate or interest as shall be so limited, appointed, or devised. And. in order to prevent fraudulent alienations, by heirs the lands deat law, of lands descended to them; by the 5th scended, before action brought: sect. of the statute, it is enacted, that, where any heir at law shall be liable to pay the debts of his ancestor in regard of lands descending to him, and shall sell or make over the same before any action brought, or process sued out against him; such heir at law shall be answerable for such debts. to the value of the said lands so by him sold, aliened, or made over. The 7th section contains a the same provisimilar provision against alienations by devisees, sion applies to whereby just creditors might otherwise be defrauded.

The heir liable. though he alien

In the construction of this act, it is clearly resolved, that, a devise for payment of debts creates payment of debts creates equitable equitable assets; and the division must be amongst assets: all creditors, of every description, pari passu(p): and that, where the testator has directed such payment to be made out of the "rents and profits," (if sold, under a direction to pay no further words limiting the devise to annual out of "rent and profits be used,) the estate may be sold (q). It

A devise for

Land may be

has

(p) Newton v. Bennet, 1 Br. by, 1 Br. 311; Ridout v. Earl of Plymouth, 2 Atk. 105; Bootle v. Blundell, 19 Ves. 528; Anonym. 1 Vern. 104.

^{187;} Clay v. Willis, 1 Barn. _& Cressw. 372.

⁽q) Lingard v. Earl of Der-

Trustees for payment of debts.

has also been declared, that, the proviso in the 4th section of the act operates only by way of an exception, and does not give any new force to the law in this particular, but leaves it just as it stood before the act (r): and that, trustees for payment may act without of debts need not wait for a decree of a Court of a decree of a Court of Equity. Equity for raising the money; but, without that, may fairly raise it by sale or mortgage; (unless where it is directed to be raised by a perception of rents and profits,) and the Court of Chancery, if the matter be afterwards brought before it, will support the transaction (s).

An illusive devise for payment tected by the exception in the statute;

can be made efactually broken; Equity, be sufficient.

Of course, a devise of lands for payment of debts. of debts, not pro- if made in a manner which would not answer the ostensible purpose, would be within all the mischief which the statute was intended to prevent; such a devise would, therefore, be deemed fraudulent, and not protected by the exception in the but if the devise statute (t). But, wherever a provision by will, for fectual, it will be payment of creditors, can be made effectual, either supported; it is not Law or in Equity, such provision is not within descent should be the general scope of the statute. It is not necesa charge will, in sary, therefore, that the descent of the estate should be broken; it is enough if it appear, upon the face of the will, that, the testator intended to break it. A mere charge is not, indeed, a legal interest, in such a case; it is not a devise to any one: but it is a declaration of intention, upon which a Court of Equity will fasten: and whether the de-

scent

⁽r) Plunkett v. Penson, 2 Atk. 292; Lingard v. Earl of Derby, ubi suprà.

⁽s) Earl of Bath v. Earl of

Bradford, 2 Ves. Senr. 590.

⁽t) Hughes v. Doulben, 2 Br. 614; S. C. (the judgment more fully reported) 2 Cox, 170.

scent be broken, or not, the charge will constitute equitable assets (z).

To a creditor's bill under the statute of fraudulent devises, the heir at law of the testator, (if he this statute, the can be discovered (w), is a necessary party (x): heir should be a but the cause will not be stayed on account of the will not be stayed infancy of such heir; for the parol never demurs minority; but where the estate comes to the heir by descent (y). And, it should seem, that, not only when the descent is broken by a devise, but, also, where the estate is merely charged for payment of debts; process will issue against the infant heir, as if he were of full age; and a receiver may be appointed, in order to prevent a failure of justice (x). But, in but, where that such cases, there must be a decree nisi causa, in the broken, a decree first instance, with leave for the infant to put in a nin alone will be made against new answer, and make a better defence, if he can, him, in the first instance: on coming of age (a): or previously thereto (b): for a decree against an infant defendant, relating to his inheritance, is never made absolute till six months after he has attained his full age (c). an infant, it has been said, is as much bound, and rights of an infant plaintiff are conas little privileged, when plaintiff, as one of full cluded by a decree in his favor; age (d). In another case, however, this dictum which, if he die,

To a creditor's bill, founded on party: the suit on account of his

descent is not

But though the his representawas tives cannot dis-

- (u) Bailey v. Ekins, 7 Ves. 323; Shiphard v. Lutwidge, 8 Ves. 30.
- (w) Gawler v. Wade, 1 P. Wms. 100.
- (x) Warren v. Stawell, 2 Atk.
- (y) Beammont v. Thorp, 1 . Ves. Senr. 28.
- (z) Lee v. Turnbull, 2 P. Wms. 409.

- (a) Fountain v. Caine, 1 P. Wms. 503; Napier v. Ledy Effingham, 2 P. Wms. 403.
- (b) Bennet v. Lee, 2 Atk. 581; Savage v. Carroll, 1 Ba. & Beat. 553.
- (c) Napier v. Lady Effingham, ubi suprà: Fountain v. Caine, ubi suprà.
- (d) Lord Brook v. Lord Hertford, 2 P. Wms. 519;

was qualified, by an intimation that the rights of an infant plaintiff were bound by a decree made in his favor; and that, in case of his death, his representatives could not disturb that decree, though it should appear less favorable to their interests (e). When a submission is made in a bill brought in the name of an infant, the Court will be careful not to act upon that submission, if it ought not to have been made (f).

Though an ap. pointment by a father, of a guardian to his children, must be atnesses; the appointment may be revoked by an instrument not attested:

The rule of the civil Law, which required the same solemnity to annul an instrument that was necessary to its perfection, has not been adopted, tested by two wit- to its full extent, in this country; for instance, the statute of the 12th of Charles 2, authorizing a father to appoint a guardian of his children, by deed, or will, requires such deed, or will, to be attested by two or more witnesses; but, this statute is silent as to the manner in which such an appointment may be revoked; a codicil, therefore, of which the sole object is a direct revocation of the appointment of a guardian, may effect that object, with-Case of excep- out being attested by two witnesses. would be different, where such revocation was only incidental to an ulterior object, which is not effected(g).

tion to this rule.

Express revocation of wills disposing of lands, must be executed according to the statute;

Revocations of wills disposing of lands, must be either express, in which case they must be executed according to the provisions of the statute of frauds; or implied, by operation of law, notwith-

post.

standing

Gregory v. Molesworth, 3 Atk. 626.

Wms. 387. See, ante, p. 76. (g) Ex parte The Earl of Ilchester, 7 Ves. 376.

(e) Sheffield v. Duchess of Buckinghamshire, 1 Atk. 631.

(f) Serle v. St. Elov. 2 P.

standing that statute and without reference to the but revocation intent of the testator (h). Thus, the least altera-by operation of tion, or new modelling, of the devised estate, sub- law, whenever, after the devise, sequently to the will, operates as an actual revo-the estate has been in any way cation (i). And, if a devisor, after making his will, new-modelled. put the whole interest of the lands devised out of himself, by any conveyance whatsoever, it is a revocation; although he take back again the very same estate, immediately (k): or, although, without express limitation, it result to him (1). And a bind- A binding coning contract for the sale of lands devised, is, in lands devised, Equity, as much a revocation, as a conveyance of though abandonthe land would be at Law. The will, it should seem, vocation. would not be set up again, even by an abandonment of the contract in the testator's lifetime (m).

tract for sale of

It must be recollected, however, that, if the owner of an unqualified equitable fee devise it by will, is not revoked by and afterwards take a conveyance of the unqualified legal fee, this is no revocation; because the legal fee: conveyance was incidental to the equitable fee: just as a partition is no revocation, because incident to a joint estate. But any qualified convey-partition work a revocation; ance of the legal fee, however slight, would operate a revocation (n). A partition, as has just been intimated.

acquisition of the

Nor does mere

- (h) Cave v. Holford, 3 Ves. 658; Brydges v. Duke of Chandos, 2 Ves. Jun. 430.
- (i) Sparrow v. Hardcastle, 8 Atk. 802; Williams v. Owens, 2 Ves. Jun. 599.
- (k) Parsons v. Freeman, 3 Atk. 747; Vanser v. Jeffery, 2 Swanst. 274.
 - (1) Harmood v. Uglander, 6

Ves. 222; Cave v. Holford, 3 Ves. 659.

- (m) Bennett v. Earl of Tankerville, 19 Ves. 178.
- (n) Ward v. Moore, 4 Mad. 372; Rose v. Conunghame, 11 Ves. 554; Parsons v. Freeman, 3 Atk. 749; Knollys v. Alcock, 7 Ves. 564.

mated does not revoke a will, where nothing has been done beyond mere partition: but the case of an exchange stands on different grounds; a partition may be enforced; an exchange is always a voluntary act; on partition the title remains the same: by exchange a new title is accepted. is no inconsistency, therefore, in the decisions which have established, that, a bare partition is not a revocation of a previous devise; but that an exchange is (o).

though an exchange does.

Bequest of the equitable interest in personalty, not testator's acquirterest.

As a devise of lands, in which the testator at the time of making his will had only an equitable esrevoked by the tate, would not be revoked by his merely taking ing the legal in- the legal estate in the same, without modification. and doing no more (p); so, a fortiori, merely taking a transfer of the legal interest in personalty, will not operate either as a revocation or ademption of a previous bequest, by a person who at the time had only the equitable interest therein (q).

Marriage, combined with the may be a presumptive revoca-

A total alteration in the circumstances and sibirth of children, tuation of a testator, has been held, prima facie. to imply a revocation; thus, where a single man, aftion of a previous ter devising his whole estate, marries and has issue; a revocation of the will has been presumed, (though such presumption may be rebutted,) where the devisor has left his widow and issue unprovided for (r). Both the principle and the practice ap-

> (o) Attorney General v. Vigor, 8 Ves. 281.

(r) Kenebel v. Scrafton, 2 East, 542; Wilkinson v. Adam, 1 Ves. & Bea. 465; Moore v. Moore, 1 Phillim. 433; Wright v. Sarmuda, 2 Phillim.

ply

⁽p) Rawlins v. Burgess, 2 Ves. & Bea. 385; Perry v. Phelips, 1 Ves. Junr. 255.

⁽q) Dingwell v. Askew, 1 267, note. Cox, 427.

ply equally in favor of a pothumous child (s). But, neither marriage alone, nor the birth of children alone, will, without other special circumstances, revoke a will (t). What shall be deemed a "total change in the situation of a testator's family," may been set aside be matter of controversy in any new case: but all upon this docthe cases in which, hitherto, wills of land have been set aside upon this doctrine, have been very simple in their circumstances; and such as, when the doctrine was once received, could admit of no doubt with respect to its application. them, the will has been that of a person who, having no children at the time of making it, has afterwards married, and had an heir born to him. The effect has been, to let in such after-born heir to take an estate, disposed of by a will made before his birth. The condition implied in those cases was, that, the testator, when he made his will in favor of a stranger, or more remote relation, intended that it should not operate, if he should have an heir of his own body. Of course there could and where it be no room for the operation of such a condition, ably be allowed when the testator, at the date of his will. had any operation: children, of whom one was his heir apparent. such case, to hold the will revoked as to the real estate, on account of the birth of children by a second marriage, would only have the effect of letting the eldest son into the whole (u). But, where

wills of land have

cannot reason-

Distinction where the will a testator, disposes of personalty.

⁽s) Doe v. Lancashire, 5 T. R. 59.

⁽t) Shepherd v. Shepherd, 5

T. R. 52, note; Doe v. Barford,

⁴ Mau. & Sel. 12. See, however, post, and Johnston v. Johnston, 1 Phillim. 467, 474.

⁽u) Sheath v. York, 1 Ves.

a testator, after having made a provision by will for children by his then subsisting marriage, becomes a widower, and has a second family; the Ecclesiastical Court may, on reasonable grounds, declare the will revoked as to the personal estate, thereby letting in the after-born children with those of the first marriage (w); but, the principle of such a decision can have no bearing upon the devise of the real estate. As the disposition of property by will may be conditional and contingent, so may its re-Revocation may vocation; or, rather, a will, or codicil, may be endent on a contingency, so as to have no effect, as a testamentary instrument, unless under the indicated contingent circumstances (x).

be made depentingency.

Enactments of the statute of vocations of devises of land:

Previously to the statute of frauds, wills might frauds, as to re- be revoked, by express words, without writing: but the 6th clause of that statute enacts, that, no devise of lands shall be revocable otherwise than by some other will or codicil in writing, or other writing declaring the same, by the testator himself, or in his presence, and by his direction and consent; but all devises and bequests of lands and tenements shall continue in force, until the same be burnt, cancelled, torn or obliterated by 'the testator, or by his direction in manner aforesaid; or unless the same be altered by some other will or codicil in writing, or other writing of the devisor.

> & Bea. 397: and see Ex parte The Earl of Ilchester, 7 Ves.

> (w) Hollway v. Clark, 1 Phillim. 342; Emerson v. Boville, 1 Phillim. 344: see, how

ever, Thompson v. Shepherd, 2 Cox, 165, 168; Johnston v. Johnston, 1 Phillim. 472.

(x) Parsons v. Lance, 1 Ves. Senr. 190; Sinclair v. Hone, 6 Ves. 611.

devisor, signed in the presence of three witnesses declaring the same. This clause has been construed disjunctively; and it is settled, that, although effected by a subthree witnesses are required to attest and sub-sequent will or scribe a revocation of a previous will, when such scribed by three revocation is sought to be effected by a subsequent will or codicil; yet, if, by any other writing, the but, if by any testator intend barely to revoke his will, without other writing testator intend barely to revoke his will, without of the writing testator intend barely to revoke his will, without other writing testator intend barely to revoke his will, without other writing testator intend barely to revoke his will, without of the writing testator intend barely to revoke his will, without of the writing testator intend barely to revoke his will, without of the writing testator intend barely to revoke his will, without of the writing testator intend barely to revoke his will, without of the writing testator intend barely to revoke his will, without of the writing testator intend barely to revoke his will, without of the writing testator intend barely to revoke his will, without of the writing testator intend barely to revoke his will be a second barely to the writing testator in the writing testa more, he may do this, effectually, by a writing dicil) a bare revocation is designed in the presence of three witnesses, who need clared, though not subscribe their names in his presence, as they must be present must to a will of real estate (y). For, however signs his revocasingular the difference between the 5th and 6th tion, they need not themselves sections of the statute of frauds may appear; and subscribe it. though it be difficult to suppose the legislature meant to institute one mode of revocation, so nearly approaching, and yet not exactly conformable, to the mode of disposition prescribed; still, as it has specified what shall be sufficient to revoke; the enactment is conclusive. And there is certainly nothing repugnant to the common Law, in declaring, that, an act which might not be sufficient to give, shall be sufficient to revoke (x). But, where The heir not the revocation of a devise is attempted to be effect-strument pured by an instrument purporting to be also a will, porting to be a will, will, and containdisposing of the property; if it be not duly execut-ing express words, ed, as such, within the 5th section of the statute of previous devise, frauds, although such instrument contain express ment be not exewords of revocation, it will not let in the heir; for cuted according to the fifth section

No such revo-

three witnesses

of revocation of a if such instruthe of the statute of frauds:

⁽y) Eccleston v. Speke, (z) Ex parte The Earl of Ilchester, 7 Ves. 372; Ellis Carthew, 81; Hoil v. Clark, 3 Mod. 220; Grayson v. Atkinv. Smith, 1 Ves. Junr. 13. son, 2 Ves. Senr. 458.

the meaning of the second will, in such case, must be to give to the second devisee what it intends to take from the first, without any consideration had to the heir; and if the second devisee, owing to the defectiveness of the disposition in his favor, can take nothing, the first will lose nothing (a).

Distinction, as to revocation, is inoperative as visce to take.

in revocation of wills of land; only applies to cases within the mischiefs the statute intended to remedy.

The distinction, however, must be clearly kept whether the will in mind, between the effect, as to revocation, arising out of a will not duly executed; and that of a not being duly ing out of a will are spect of the incapacity of executed; or on- devise of lands void in respect of the incapacity of pacity of the de- the devisee to take (b). Even a grant which, from the incompetency of the party in whose favor it was made, cannot take effect, may operate as a revocation of a previous will, disposing of the The necessity same subject (c). And, as it is the statute of frands pleting, (in order alone which prescribes certain forms as necessary to render valid) to make an to render valid) an act intended to make an express revocation of a will of lands valid; and which declares, that, unless such instrument of revocation be complete, it shall be altogether inoperative; this doctrine is not extended to cases where the statute of frauds does not Thus, although a feoffment of lands preapply. viously devised may fail, for want of due livery of seisin, yet, the intention of the feoffor being apparent, the devise will be revoked (d). same observation holds as to a bargain and sale, which, though not enrolled before the testator's death.

⁽a) Onions v. Tyrer, 1 P. Wms. 345; S. C. Prec. in Cha. 460; Eccleston v. Speke, Carth.

⁽b) Roper v. Radcliffe, 10 Mod. 233.

⁽c) Beard v. Beard, 3 Atk. 72.

⁽d) Ex parte Earl of Ilchester, 7 Ves. 370; Beard v. Beard, ubi suprà.

death, is a revocation (e). So, if, after a devise; a man convey his estate by lease and release, to trustees, to the use of himself and his heirs until his marriage, and after his marriage to himself for life, with the usual remainders; though the party die before marriage, this conveyance will amount to a revocation (f). And a renewal of Generally, rea lease, generally speaking, operates as a revocation (g); but the context of the will may, it of the leasehold interest; but the seems, control this construction (h): thus, where context of the a testator gives a lease, and all the term, estate, or this construction. interest which shall be to come therein, at the time of his decease; or, where he makes a reversionary bequest of all the term, estate, and interest, which shall be to come in leasehold property, at the decease of the first taker, expressly providing for the charges of renewal: in the first case, no republication would be necessary, upon a renewal by the testator in his lifetime; and in the other case, any renewals by the first taker would be coupled with a trust for the ulterior objects of the testator's bounty (i). The question, in these cases, turns

will may control

upon

⁽e) Sparrow v. Hardcastle, 3 Atk. 803; Vanser v. Jeffery, 2 Swanst. 274.

⁽f) Earl of Lincoln's case, 2 Freem. 202; confirmed, on appeal, in Dom. Proc. Show. P. C. 154; Arthur v. Bockenham, Fitzgibbon, 241. In Doe v. Pott, 2 Dougl. 722, Lord Mansfield said, "the absurdity of Lord Lincoln's case is shocking; but it is now Law:" see Goodtitle v. Otway, 7 T. R.

^{420;} Cave v. Holford, 3 Ves.

⁽g) Marwood v. Turner, 3 P. Wms. 170; Abney v. Miller, 2 Atk. 597.

⁽h) James v. Dean, 11 Ves.

⁽i) James v. Dean, 15 Ves. 239; Stirling v. Lidyard, 3 Atk. 199; Carte v. Carte, Ridgeway, 222; S. C. 3 Atk. 176.

Effect, as to revocation, of a surrender of copyholds.

upon the intention, to be collected from the language of the will (k). With respect to copyholds, a surrender to the uses of a marriage settlement will not revoke a surrender to the use of a will, and a devise of such copyholds (1).

A conveyance merely as a security for money, only a revocation pro tanto.

If a conveyance, or recovery, be for a particular, limited, purpose; then neither of them revokes a previous devise of the estate conveyed, further than is necessary for that express purpose (m): supposing such purpose is only to give a security for a sum of money (n). Thus, if a person mortgage a devised estate, not only by lease and release, but, by fine; this, in Equity, will be only a revocation pro tanto (o): even a mortgage in fee to the de-A subsequent visee does not revoke the devise (p). Upon the sease does not revoke, though it same principle, if a man, being seised in fee of a

of the property:

devisee himself, the devisor, sistent with, and a revocation of, the devise:

qualifies, a devise freehold, make his will; that will is not revoked by his afterwards granting a lease of his estate. The devisee takes the estate, subject to the lease (q). but a lease to the The reason of the thing would be the same, alnot to commence though such lease were made to the devisee himtill the death of self; for the devisor might naturally choose to rewould be incon- serve a rent during his lifetime: the case would be different, if the lease were made to commence after the testator's death; that would be a revocation

> (k) Slatter v. Noton, 16 Ves. 201; Colegrave v. Manby, 6 Mad. 84.

⁽I) Vanser v. Jeffery, 3 Barn. & Ald. 470.

⁽m) Parsons v. Freeman, 3 Atk. 748.

⁽n) Vawser v. Jeffery, 2 Swanst. 273.

⁽o) Casborne v. Scarfe, 1 Atk. 606; Rider v. Wager, 2 P. Wms. 334.

⁽p) Baxter v. Dyer, 5 Ves.

⁽q) Lambe v. Parker, 2 Freem. 284; Roe v. Wegg, 6 T. R. 710.

tion of the devise in toto; for the two dispositions would be altogether inconsistent (r). Where, how- a partial inconever, a subsequent disposition of property is in- ever, only induces consistent with a previous devise; if there be but partial revocaan inconsistency in part, it is a revocation as to that part only (s). And, a second will being no and though it be revocation of a former one, further than as it is proved that a party made a inconsistent therewith; it will not be enough to second will, yet, if its contents do prove that a second will was made, without pro- not appear, it ducing it, and shewing it to be not merely differ- former will. ent from, but incompatible with, the former. Otherwise, the fraudulent suppression of a second will, which was intended merely as a confirmation, might be made to operate as a revocation (t).

cannot revoke a

As the bankrupt laws take the property of a bankrupt out of his hands only for the purpose of bankruptcy is a revocation. paying his creditors, a devise of real estate is not revoked by an act of bankruptcy, further than may be necessary for the payment of the demands of the testator; the surplus will remain well devised (u).

Towhat extent

It would be an untenable position to maintain, that, a devisor by making a second will, in terms though its terms may be large large enough to include all his property; must, ne-enough to incessarily, have meant to revoke a former will: to tor's property, have this effect it must be shewn, that, the dispo-revocation of a

A second will, clude all a testanot necessarily a former will.

- (r) Coke v. Bullock, Cro. Jac. 49; cited also in Perkins v. Walker, 1 Vern. 97, but omit. ting the most material circumstance,-the time when the lease was to commence: Hodgkinson v. Wood, Cro. Car. 24.
 - (s) Harwood v. Goodright,

Cowper, 90; S. C. in Dom. Proc. 7 Br. P. C. 349, folio

- (t) Hitchins v. Basset, 3 Mod. 208, affirmed in Dom Proc. Show. P. C. 149.
- (u) Charman v. Charman, 14 Ves. 584.

sition of the property made by the two wills is inconsistent. It would be an assumption, of what is not a necessary inference, to say, that, by his second will, the testator must have intended either to confirm, or revoke, the dispositions contained in the first will: there is a third proposition—he might not have contemplated to do either, but to make a mere collateral disposition of the proper-A declared in ty (w). And as, before the statute of frauds, parol tention to revoke by a future act, declarations of an intention to revoke by a future act, would not have amounted to a present revocation(x); so, the same sense conveyed, now, in writing will have no further operation, than such a parol declaration would have had before the statute (v).

no present revocation.

But where a codicil expressly vious devise, the disposition must depend on the codicil alone.

But, where a testator has by a codicil expressly coulcil expressly revoked the whole of a previous devise, and has taken upon himself to declare over again all the trusts; it is in his new disposition alone that the testamentary title to his property must be sought. There may be strong ground for supposing, that, it was by a mere slip he omitted to dispose of part by the codicil, as he had done by his will; but this omission a Court of Equity cannot supply (x).

Effect of a codicil, added only for a particular purpose.

A codicil, however, added merely for a particular purpose, (such, for instance, as changing an executor, but confirming the will in all other respects,) will not have the effect of setting up again a part of the will, revoked by a former codicil (a).

- A conveyance, (w) Thomas v. Evans, 2 suprà. East, 494. (z) Holder v. Howell, 8 Ves. (x) Cranvel v. Sanders, Cro. 103. Jac. 497. (a) Crosbie v. M'Doual, 4
 - (y) Thomas v. Evans, ubi Ves. 616.

A conveyance, or other instrument, obtained by such fraud and covin as would render it a nullity ment, though imeven at common Law, cannot, of course, revoke a peached in Equity, and ordered will (b); but, in what cases a deed, though liable to be delivered up, may not to be impeached in Equity, and ordered to be de-operate as a relivered up as improperly obtained, may, notwithstanding, operate a revocation, is, perhaps, hardly yet settled. Where the party executing thought, that, by such conveyance his will was revoked; and where a reconveyance would be necessary to remedy the fraud; Lord Alvanley was of opinion, that, the impeached instrument, though set aside and made ineffectual for other purposes, would still be a revocation (c). Lord Thurlow thought differently (d); but Lord Eldon seems to have inclined in favor of Lord Alvanley's doctrine (e).

Quære, whether an instru-

Where an instrument revoking legacies bears upon the face of it evidence, that, it was entirely ing legacies is, grounded upon misinformation or mistake, the hequests made by the will remain good(f). where a testator assigns, as a reason for his revocation, not only doubts whether the objects of his as a reason for reonce intended bounty are alive, but, also whether, can be no inquiry they may not, even if living, he well provided for; whether that doubt was well a revocation grounded on this double uncertainty founded or not. must take effect; and a Court of Equity will not inquire

Where an ingrounded on mis-But, take, it will have no effect in Equivocation, there

⁽b) Hicks y, Morse, Ambl. 215.

⁽c) Hawes v. Wyatt, 2 Cox, 268; S. C. 3 Br. 157; Harmood v. Oglander, 6 Ves. 215; Ex parte The Earl of Ilchester, 7 Ves. 374.

⁽d) See the cases cited in the last note.

⁽e) Attorney General v. Vigor, 8 Ves. 283.

⁽f) Campbell v. French, 3 Ves. 323.

testator prescribes a parti-cular mode of proof of a legaother mode of proof will avail.

inquire whether the legatees are, or are not, well provided for (g): the testator will be understood to have determined to quiet his own doubts, and to settle them himself on some certain foundation; not leaving them to be litigated after his death (h). And where a So, although there may be cases in which, notwithstanding a condition prescribes the means, yet, the end being obtained, the means may be overlooked; tee's existence, no still, this rule of the civil Law can never govern a case, in which a testator has prescribed particular means of proving the existence of a legatee, as an express condition, upon which alone he is to be entitled to the legacy; and with a direction, that, if such proof be not given within a limited time, the legacy shall sink into the residue. case, if the particular mode of proof prescribed be not given, the legacy cannot be claimed, although the existence of the legatee may, by other means, appear (i).

Though a testamentary instrusubstance may be established.

There can be no doubt, that, the contents or ment be lost, its substance of a testamentary instrument may be established, though the instrument itself cannot be produced, upon satisfactory proof being given that it was duly made by the testator, and was not revoked by him: for example, either by shewing that the instrument existed after the testator's death; or that it was destroyed in his lifetime without his privity or consent (k). It is also well settled, that, in legal consideration, a will may be cancelled with-

out

⁽g) Attorney General v. Ward, 3 Ves. 331.

⁽h) Attorney General v. Lloyd, 3 Atk. 552.

⁽i) Tulk v. Houlditch, 1 Ves. & Bea. 259.

⁽k) Davis v. Davis, 2 Addams, 224.

out being revoked. The cancelling is an equivocal act, and in order to operate as a revocation must revoked, unless be done animo revocandi (l). Thus, cancelling a the act was done animo cancellanformer will, on a presumption that a latter, devis- di. ing the same lands to the same uses, was effective, would be no revocation of the former, if the latter proved to be void (m). But, although the cancellation of a will does not necessarily infer any intentional abandonment of the dispositions contained in, or, consequently, any revocation of it; yet, this is the ordinary inference. And, in order to butthe cancelled bar its application to any particular case of can-instrument must be shewn to have celling, two things at least are requisite; first, it once existed as a finished will; and must be proved, that, the cancelled paper once ex- it must, also, be isted as a *finished* will; secondly, it must be cleartestator's mind ly shewn, that, the testator adhered to it through adhered to the substance of the out, in mind and intention, notwithstanding its disposition inade thereby. cancellation (n): restricting, however, this latter dictum, to a certain extent, by the qualification established in Onions v. Tyrer, in cases where a substituted will proves inoperative.

Where a testator has executed duplicates of his will, and retained one part only in his own posses- cates of a will are executed, how sion; if he destroyed that part, the legal presump- far the destruction would be, that, he intended to revoke his will affords a prealtogether; and the duplicates in the possession intent to revoke of others would not avail (o). If the testator himself had possession of both parts, the same presumption

A will though

When duplition of one part sumption of an the whole.

⁽¹⁾ Burtonshaw v. Gilbert, Cowp. 52; Johnston v. Johnston, 1 Phillim. 466.

⁽m) Onions v. Tyrer, 3 P. Wms. 345.

⁽n) Lord John Thynne v. Stanhope, 1 Addams, 54.

⁽o) Sir Edward Seymour's case, cited 3 P. Wms. 345.

Whether the destruction of a second will resets up again the on circumstances.

sumption would hold though weaker. And, even if, having both in his possession, he altered one, and then destroyed that which he had altered, there also the presumption of intended revocation would exist; but still weaker, and more capable of being rebutted (p). Lord Mansfield held it settled, that. if a man by a second will revoked a former, yet, if voking a former, he keep the first will undestroyed, and afterwards first will, depends destroy the second, the first will is revived (q): considerable doubt, however, has been, judicially, expressed on this head; and it rather seems, that, it must be considered as a question of intention. to be decided according to the circumstances of each particular case (r).

Partial obliteration revokes only pro tanto: But, obliteration of a codicil may lineation in the

The obliteration of part of a will operates as a revocation only pro tanto (s). But, the obliteration of a codicil may have the effect of cancelling cancel an inter an interlineation in a will, if it appear clearly, that, the codicil and the interlineation had the same object in view; and, that, the testator, by obliterating the codicil, intended to renounce that object, And cancella- and not merely the mode of effecting it (t). And, tion of a will, generally, revokes as a codicil is, prima facie, dependent on the will, cancellation of the will is, generally, an implied revocation of the codicil: there have, indeed, been cases, where a codicil has appeared so independent

of.

- (p) Pemberton v. Pemberton, 13 Ves. 310.
- (q) Harwood v. Goodright, Cowp. 91.
- (r) Moore v. Metcalf, 1 Phillim. 400; and, on appeal before the Court of Delegates, ibid, 419; Hooton v. Head, 3
- Phillim. 32; Usticke v. Banden, 2 Addams, 125.
- (s) Larkins v. Larkins, 3 Bos. & Pull. 21; Short v. Smith, 4 Bast. 429.
- (t) Utterson v. Utterson, 3 Ves. & Bea. 123.

of, and unconnected with the will, that, under circumstances, the codicil has been established, though the will has been held invalid. have turned upon clear intention, repelling the legal presumption, and shewing that the testator designed to leave the codicil operative, notwithstanding the revocation of the will (u).

Where a power of disposition is exercised by a testamentary instrument, such an instrument is, to be executed from its very nature, revocable up to the death of by will, such will may be revoked, the party executing it; and that without any fresh totics quoties, power of revocation reserved in the first testamen-ing fresh power tary instrument; which reservation would have been necessary in the case of a deed (w).

When powers of disposition are without reservof revocation.

As, in Equity, an estate contracted for by, but not actually conveyed to, a testator, will pass un- for by a testator, der a general devise of his estates (x); the converse devise of his equally holds: therefore, although a covenant, or estates; whilst his articles, for conveyance of a devised estate, do agreement to not at common Law revoke a will, yet, if en-estate, is an equittered into for a valuable consideration, they would, the devise: in a Court of Equity, amount to a conveyance; and, consequently, be an equitable revocation of a will, or of any writing in the nature, thereof (y). For, every devise of real estate is specific (x); and, no man can de-

In Equity, an estate contracted convey a devised

vise land which being

- (u) Medlycott v. Assheton, 2 Addams, 231.
- (w) Hatcher v. Curtis, 2 Freem. 61; Duke of Marlborough v. Lord Godolphin, 2 Ves. Senr. 77; Reid v. Shergold, 10 Ves. 379; Hobson v. Blackburn, 1 Addams, 278;
- Oke v. Heath, 1Ves. Senr. 139. (x) Capel v. Girdler, 9 Ves. 510; Broome v. Monck, 10 Ves. 605.
- (y) Cotter v. Layer, 2 P. Wms. 624; Attorney, General v. Vigor, 8 Ves. 289.
 - (z) Hill v. Cock, 1 Ves. &

death:

sible for the estate to have been divested in the intervening time, and yet for the will to stand good, without republication:

tator was disseismade his will, yet, if he be remitted before his death, the devise good.

he had not both being considered in the nature of an appointment at the date of his will, and of his of particular lands to a particular devisee, it is a necessary consequence of this principle, that, no man can legally devise lands, to which he has not a legal title at the date of the appointment, and of his death; nor can such a devise be held good in Equity where the equitable title-was not in the though it is pos- devisor at both those periods (a). The estate may. indeed, during the intervening time have been divested, and yet the will may, without republica-Thus, if a devisor, seised in fee tion, stand good. at the time of the devise, be disseised, but afterwards purge the disseisin by re-entry; the estate will not merely be revested, but, in consideration of Law, the disseisee will be held to have been in possession from the time of disseisin, by relation; and, as a necessary corollary, his will, disposing of that property, will need no republication to render and though a tes- it valid (b). And though if a testator devise lands ed at the time he of which he is at the time actually disseised, the will cannot pass the lands, if the devisor die before he is remitted by entry thereupon; yet, if he do should seem to be enter, after he has made his will, and if it be sound law, (as seems established by the cases cited,) that, such entry has relation, to all intents and purposes, to the time of the disseisin; then, such will, notwithstanding

> Bea. 175; Milnes v. Slater, 8 Ves. 305.

> (a) Harwood v. Goodright, Cowp. 90; Howe v. Earl Dartmouth, 7 Ves. 147; Rose v. Conynghame, 11 Ves. 554;

Brudenell v. Boughton, 2 Atk. 272.

(b) Goodtitle v. Otway, 1 Bos. & Pull. 603; citing the leading case of Brunker v. Cook, 11 Mod. 128.

withstanding it was executed when the devisor had only jus ad rem, not in re, will operate as a good devise (c).

But, if a mortgagee in fee devise all his lands, the mortgaged lands will not pass, unless the equity of his lands, will not redemption has been foreclosed, previously to the pass the mortexecution of the will; a subsequent foreclosure a subsequent would be a new purchase of the lands, and, there-would be a new fore, upon the principles already stated, the will could not, by anticipation, dispose of them (d). With respect to copyholds, however, as they are considered parcel of the manor of which they are the lord, after a holden, if the manor itself be well devised, copy- valid devise of the manor itself, pass hold premises purchased by, or which come by as parcel thereof: escheat to, the lord, subsequently to the execution descent of the of his will, pass thereunder: for the will operated die intestate. on the whole manor, of which all the copyholds are part. The case may be illustrated by supposing, that, the lord has been seised of the manor ex parte ·materná, in which case, any newly acquired copyhold, purchased by him, would not descend, if he died intestate, to his heirs ex parte paterná (e).

It is clearly settled, that, a codicil to a will republishes that will; and, also, that, the republica- will republishes that will; and tion of a former will supersedes one of later date, republication of a former will suand reestablishes the first. Even a codicil of per-penedes one of sonalty, if executed so as to act on the subject, error or fraud be that is, if attested by three witnesses, republishes a

A devise by a mortgagee of all gaged lands: and foreclosure purchase.

But copyholds which accrue to and follow the manor if the lord

A codicil to a later date, if no shewn.

⁽c). Attorney General v. Vigor, 8 Ves. 282.

⁽d) Casborne v. Scarfe, 1 Atk. 606; Arthur v. Bockenham, Fitz-Gibbon, 240: see,

post, as to mortgages of Leasehold premises.

⁽e) Roe v. Wegg, 6 T. R. 710; St. Paul v. Lord Dudley & Ward, 15 Ves. 172.

No evidence of intention to repubwill of lands. lish is requisite; the very act of making the codicil, prima facie at least, infers the intention. It is true, indeed, that, this prima facie inference may be rebutted, by proof that the act was done by the deceased in error, or obtained from him by fraud (f): and, we shall see, shortly, that the rule does not extend to setting up again a lapsed, adeemed, or satisfied legacy.

A specific legacy, in its naademption; and if the thing so given be once gone, there is an of the legatee:

The criterion of a specific legacy is, that, it is ture, is liable to liable to ademption; that, when the thing bequeathed is once gone, it is lost to the legatee (g). If, therefore, a testator bequeath a legacy of cerend to the claim tain stock in the public funds, or of a particular debt, so described as to render the bequest, in either case, specific; if that stock should be afterwards sold out by the testator, or if that debt should, in his lifetime, be paid or cancelled, the legacy would be adeemed (h). The question, in such cases, does not turn on the intention of the testa-The idea of proceeding on the animus adimendi (though supported by plausible reasoning) was found to introduce a degree of confusion into the decisions on the subject, and to afford no pre-.cise rule(i). It seems, therefore, now established, that, the principle of adomption, whenever the tes-

or there would be no distinction between a specific, and a mere pecuniary legacy:

> (f) Rogers v. Pittis, 1 Addams, 37; Barnes v. Crowe, 1 Ves. Junr. 497; Hulme v. Heygate, 1 Meriv. 294; Goodtitle v. Meredith, 2 Mau. & Sel. 14; Pigott v. Waller, 7 Ves. 124.

(g) Parrot v. Worsfold, 1 Jac. & Walk. 601.

tator

- (h) Ashburner.v. M'Guire, 2 Br. 109.
- (i) Stanley v. Potter, 2, Cox, 182; Humphreys v. Hunphreys, ibid. 185.

tator has himself received, or otherwise disposed of, the thing given, is, that, such thing no longer exists: for if, after a particular debt given by will had been received by the testator, it could be demanded by the legatee, that would be converting it into a pecuniary, instead of a specific, legacy (k). Where, indeed, the identical corpus is not given:(1), but where the where the legacy is not specific, but what is term- given, there, ed in the civil Law a demonstrative legacy; that though the security be called in, is, a general pecuniary legacy, with a particular a demonstrative security pointed out, as a convenient mode of pay- adeemed. ment: there, although such security may be called in, or fail, the legacy will not be adeemed (m). But, when it is once settled, that a legacy is specific, the only safe and clear way is to adhere to the plain rule,—that there is an end of a specific gift, if the specific thing do not exist at the testator's death (n).

If a testator bequeath a sum of stock "standing in his name," this is a specific bequest (0); as it tion renders a bequest of stock would be if he gave part of "his" stock provided specific. he had the stock described, when he made his will (p): and any act of his, destroying that subject, would be held to prove an intention to revoke the gift. So, if it appear, on reference to the Mas-

(k) Fryer v. Morris, 9 Ves. 368; Barker v. Rayner, 5 Mad. 217.

(1) Selwood v. Mildmay, 3 Ves. 310.

(m) Guillaume v. Adderley, 15 Ves. 889; Sibley v. Perry, 7 Ves. 529; Kirby v. Potter, 4 Ves. 751; Roberts. v. Pocock, ibid. 159; Le Grice v. Finch, 3 Meriv. 52.

ter.

(n) Barker v. Rayner, 5 Mad. 217.

(o) Alford v. Green, 5 Mad.

(p) Selwood v. Mildmay, 3 Ves. 310.

A mere misde- fails (q). scription of stock thereof.

ter, that, the testator, at the time of making his will, neither had such stock as that specified, nor any other stock which he intended to pass by that description; but, that, he intended to buy such stock, though he never did so in fact; the legacy A mere misdescription, however, will will not defeat an not defeat a bequest of this kind; for instance, if intended bequest a testator give by the description of "long annuities then standing in his name," and die possessed of no other stock than "reduced annuities," parol evidence is admissible to shew, that, he had not, when he made his will, any "long annuities," strictly so called; and the reduced annuities, if the mistake be clearly made out, will pass (r). And, if a testator give, by his will, stock "standing in his name," when he has no stock actually standing in his name, but the stock to which he was entitled was standing in the names of trustees; such truststock will pass (s).

The same legacy may be specific in one sense. pecuniary in another.

The same legacy may be specific in one sense, and pecuniary in another; specific, as given out of a particular fund, and not out of the estate at large; pecuniary, as consisting only of a definite sum of money, and not amounting to a gift of the fund itself, or any aliquot part of it (t). So, it has been said, a legacy may be clearly specific, if it can be specifically satisfied; yet be construed as a general pecuniary legacy, if it cannot (u). When the construction

- (q) Evans v. Tripp, 6 Mad. 91.
- (r) Penticost v. Ley, 2 Jac. & Walk. 210. See post.
- (s) Hewson v. Reed, 5 Mad. 451.
 - (t) Smith v. Fitzgerald, 3
- Ves. & Bea. 5; Roberts v. Pocock, 4 Ves. 160; Coleman v. Coleman, 2 Ves. Junr. 640.
- (u) Fontaine v. Tyler, 9 Price, 104: but see Simmons v. Vallance, 4 Br. 347.

construction is at all doubtful, the inclination of Leaning against the Court is strongly against holding a legacy to be specific (v). A specific legacy passes, together with its proceeds, from the death of the testator (w).

specific legacies.

If a father give his daughter a portion by will, A portion given on marriage, reand afterwards give the same daughter a portion vokes a portion in marriage, this, by the laws of all other nations previously given by will: as well as by those of Great Britain, is a revocation of the portion given by the will; it will not be intended, unless proved, that, the father designed two portions for one child (x). For, it has been reasonably presumed, that, a man does not mean debt, which it to pay twice the same debt; and Judges in Equi-will not be prety have been in the habit (whether with strict at-tends to pay tention to accuracy may be questioned,) of giving the name of debt to a portion, given by a father to a child (y). Where, indeed, a father is, even in Even a debt, in the strict sense of the word, indebted to a daugh- the strict sense of that word, will ter, there are very few cases in which he will not generally be taken to be so be presumed to have paid that debt, when, in his satisfied. lifetime, he gives her in marrlage a greater sum than he owed her; for, it is unnatural to suppose, that, he would choose to leave himself a debtor to her, and subject to an account (2). But, a debt Whether, if the due by a father to a child, it has been said, would given by the pa-

For, a portion is considered as a

(v) Chaworth v. Beech, 4 Ves. 565; Innes v. Johnson, 4 Ves. 574; Kirby v. Potter, 4 Ves. 752.

(w) S. C. p. 751; Raven v. Waite, 1 Swanst. 557.

(x) Hartop v. Whitmore, 1 P. Wms. 681; Ellison.v. Cookson, 1 Ves. Junr. 108.

(y) Wetherby v. Dixon, 19 Ves. 411; Ex parte Pye, 18 Ves. 154; Grave v. Lord Salisbury, 1 Br. 426.

(z) Chave v. Farrant, 18 Ves. 10; citing Wood v. Bryant, 2 Atk. 522.

rest in his life- no more be satisfied by a legacy given by the will time, but by will, the debt would of the father, than a similar debt due from a strangbe satisfied; would be satisfied by a legacy under his will; tion of intention. unless upon the face of the will, or from the circumstances and manner in which the testator acted upon the property, it can be plainly proved he

the case of Tolson v. Collins.

meant his bequest to be in discharge of his debt (a). Peculiarities of The report of the case just referred to is, perhaps. less clear than might be wished: the legacy in question was given upon a contingency, and also raised a case of election: under these circumstances it would have been difficult to hold the legacy (whether given by a father or a stranger,) a conclusive satisfaction of a debt. But. from the general expressions used in the passage cited, without notice of the peculiarities upon which the case turned, it might be incautiously inferred, that, Lord Alvanley meant to intimate, as an unqualified proposition, that a debt due from a stranger was not, primá facie, satisfied by a legacy of equal amount: a dictum which, so misunderstood, would stand opposed to the whole current of authorities, by which it is established, that, the prima facie presumption, as applied to the will of a stranger, is on the other side; that, the general rule of Prima facie, a ademption, where a legacy either exceeds the debt, legacy, equal to or is equal to it, cannot now be disputed; and, the amount of a that, where there is a debt due in the testator's adeems the debt: lifetime, and nothing but a plain general legacy given to the creditor; this must be taken as a sabut where a rea- tisfaction of the debt (b). The reasonableness of

debt due from the testator.

(a) Tolson v. Collina, 4 Ves. 491.

(b) Richardson v. Greese, 3 Atk. 67; Reach v. Kennegal,

sonable inference

this rule has, indeed, been questioned (c); it has arises, that such even been called (and that by the learned Judge tention, Equity last named,) a "very absurd" rule (d); a rule general rule: which, "of all others that have been adopted by Courts of Equity, is most to be regretted (e):" but still, in the very cases which called forth this disapprobation, the doctrine was considered as too firmly established to be now shaken. doubt true, that, where there are circumstances affording a fair inférence, that, it was not the testator's intention the legacy should be an ademption of the debt, the leaning of Courts of Equity has been against the general rule (f); when applied to positive debts, it has been scrutinized very strictly (g), and any little circumstances are laid hold of to take a case out of the rule (h): but then, it was said, by Lord Hardwicke, these distinctions are not to be taken from circumstances dehors the will, if they are not to be deduced from the will itself (i). Lord Eldon, however, unwillingly, and after great deliberation, held himself prove the intenbound by the preponderance of modern authorities, to admit parol evidence to repel the presumption, that, a debt was satisfied by a legacy of greater amount (k); notwithstanding the will itself afforded

Parol evidence tion in such cases;

1 Ves. Senr. 126; Jeffs v. Wood, 2 P. Wms. 131; Fowler v. Fowler, 3 P. Wms. 353.

- (c) Case last cited, and Chancey's case, 1 P. Wms. 410.
- (d) Barclay v. Wainwright, 3 Ves. 466.
- (e) Hinchcliffe v. Hinchcliffe, 3 Ves. 529.
 - (f) Nicholls v. Judson, 2

Atk. 301.

- (g) Barclay v. Wainwright, ubi suprà.
- (h) Hinchcliffe v. Hinchcliffe, ubi suprà.
- (i) Richardson v. Greese, 3 Atk. 68.
- (k) Wallace v. Pomfret, 11 Ves. 548.

such evidence being admitted as to portions.

forded an inference in support of that presumption: this must, therefore, be now looked upon as settled. His Lordship relied on the analogous rule with respect to portions; an analogy which, (although it does not hold in all particulars; debts, in many cases, receiving a very different consideration;) there could be no sound principle for refusing to extend, in this instance, to the claims of debtors, after it was established in favor of portioners (l).

A contingent legacy can never satisfy a debt.

If a debtor, without noticing the debt, devise to his creditor an interest subject to a contingency: there, although the contingency should actually happen, yet the benefit received under the will would not go in satisfaction of the debt: because it is a maxim, that, a debt, which is certain, shall not be merged, or lost, by an uncertain, or Quere, how- contingent, recompence (m). It may be questionsome cases a be- able, however, whether Lord Rosslyn did not give too extensive an application to this maxim, when he held, that, a gift of a residue could never be considered as a satisfaction of a portion (n). Lord Thurlow (o), as well as Mr. Justice Buller (p), came to a different conclusion: and with their opinion that of Sir Wm. Grant (q) seems to have though no satis- coincided. With respect to a positive debt (r), indeed, or a provision for a wife, under a covenant

ever, whether in quest of a residue may not satisfy a portion?

faction of a positive debt.

- (1) S. C. ibid. p. 547; Druce v. Dennison, 6 Ves. 398.
- Talbot v. Duke of Shrewsbury, Prec. in Cha. 395; Clark v. Sewell, 3 Atk. 98; Spinks v. Robins, 2 Atk. 493.
- (n) Freemantle v. Bankes, 5 Ves. 85.
- (o) Rickman v. Morgan, 1 Br. 67, 2 Br. 394.
- (p) Pearson v. Morgan, 2 Br. 388.
- (q) Bengough v. Walker, 15 Ves. 514.
- (r) Barret v. Beckford, 1 Ves. Senr. 520.

in a marriage settlement (s); it appears to be better settled, that, a bequest of an uncertain residue cannot be deemed a satisfaction, even pro tanto. And, of course, a bequest of a residue for life only, cannot be construed a satisfaction for an absolute interest to which the residuary legatee is entitled, by way of portion, under a settlement (t). of portion. Nor will a devise of land be construed to be a sa- A devise of land tisfaction for a debt of money (u): and, (though a debt of money: this resolution, also, has been quarrelled with, as nor a legacy less than the debt an a strange one (w); it is fully settled, that, a legacy ademption pro which, in the smallest degree, falls short of a debt, faction of a debt will not be deemed a satisfaction pro tanto (x): presumed. neither, if a man first give a legacy by will, and afterwards a different sum to the same person by bond, will the one be a satisfaction for the other (y): for, a legacy cannot be deemed a satisfaction for services done to, or a debt incurred by, a testator, after the date of the will (x). A legacy bequeathed by the drawer to the payee of a negotiable security can never operate as an extinguishment; for, if operates no extinguishment. it ever did so, the decision of each case must depend, not upon the intent, but, upon the fact whether the original payee had, or had not, negotiated the security before the date of the will (a).

A bequest of a residue for life. no satisfaction of an absolute interest due by way

no satisfaction for tanto: for satisis not willingly

A legacy to the

 ${f W}{f e}$

⁽s) Devese v. Pontet, 1 Cox, 192.

⁽t) Alleyn v. Alleyn, 2 Ves.

⁽u) Eastwood v. Vincke, 2 P. Wms. 616; Bellasis v. Uthwaite, 1 Atk. 428.

⁽w) Chancey's case, 1 P. Wms. 410.

⁽x) Eastwood v. Vincke, 2 P. Wms. 616; Graham v. Gra-

ham, 2 Ves. Senr. 263; Atkinson v. Webb, 2 Vern. 478; Byde v. Byde, 1 Cox, 48.

⁽y) Spinks v. Robins, 2 Atk. 492.

⁽z) Chancey's case, 1 P. Wms. 409; Thomas v. Bennet, 2 P. Wms. 342; Fowler v. Fowler, 3 P. Wms. 354.

⁽a) Carr v. Eastabrooke, 3 Ves. 564.

Whether a portion. like a debt. fied by something ejusdem generis?

The case of Grave v. Lord ed.

The word " portion" properly applied only to a provision made by a parent, or one distinctly in loco parentis.

stranger not adeemed by a gift in his lifetime; unless an intent to that proved.

in some cases,

We have just seen, that, a pecuniary debt will can only be satisfied by a bequest of land, or vice versa; and the same rule, it has been said, holds with respect to portions; it may be worth consideration, however, whether the case generally relied on (b) goes the full length of supporting this proposition. In "Grave v. Lord Salisbury," the legatee was, Salisbury analys- indeed, suggested to have been the illegitimate son of the testator, but no proof was given that Lord Salisbury had distinctly put himself in loco parentis, or that the benefits conferred on the legatee, by his lordship, during his lifetime, were advanced as a portion. It would have been difficult, therefore, to hold, that, a testamentary gift by one who, in legal contemplation, was a stranger, should be adeemed by any gift, in such stranger's lifetime; more especially, perhaps, of a thing non ejusdem generis (c); though it may be doubted whether that circumstance was essential. For the word portion is properly applied only in the case of a parent, legally acknowledged as such: or in the case of one who has clearly put himself in loco parentis; it is not applicable to the gifts of A legacy given other relations, or friends. A legacy given by by the will of a the will of a stranger, is not adeemed by the gift of a sum of money in the stranger's lifetime, unless there be evidence that the latter gift was intended effect be clearly for the same purpose as the former; and, that, at the time of the gift, it was meant to be an ademp-This rule may, tion of the legacy (d). This rule may, certainly,

, have

⁽b) Grave v. Lord Salisbury, Ves. 512.

¹ Br. 425. (d) Powell v. Cleaver, 2 Br.

⁽c) Bengough v. Walker, 15 517.

have the effect, in some instances, of placing ille- give to illegitigitimate offspring in a more advantageous situa- over legitimate, tion than legitimate children (e); but the evil, though admitted, is a necessary consequence flowing from doctrines, which, upon the whole, are salutary; which are now firmly established; and which could not be departed from, without creating greater mischief than the partial inconvenience they may, occasionally, produce.

Upon strict abstract principle, there may seem no reason why every gift should not be substan-presumption tive, where the contrary is not expressed: in the against a child's claim to a double ease of parent and child a different rule prevails: portion: a presumption, liable to be rebutted by parolevidence, is raised against the claim to, what is called, a double portion (f). And, to raise this presumption, no declaration seems necessary: but, if tion may be rethe parent do actually make any declarations, (even evidence; but, to raise it, no deverbal ones,) as to the purpose, for which his ad-claration is necesvences were made, such declarations may, with due caution, be weighed (g); to examine whether they afford evidence, that, the two provisions were made diverso intuity (h).

doctrine raises a

This presump-

So, although it be a settled rule, that, simpliciter et prima facie, two different instruments giv- gifts by two different testamenting legacies, whether of the same or larger amount, ary instruments are accumulative;

Prima facie, shall but this presumption may be rebutted.

- (e) Wetherby v. Dixon, 19 Ves. 412; Ex parte Pye, 18 Ves. 151.
- (f) Trimmer v. Bayne, 7 Ves. 515; Osborne y. Duke of Leeds, 5 Ves. 381; Ellison v. Cookson, 3 Br. 62.
- (g) Robinson v. Whitley, 9 Ves. 579; Debeze v. Man, 1 Cox, 351; Dwyer v. Lysaght, 2 Ball & Beat. 162.
- (h) Powell v. Cleaver, 2 Br. 517; Monck v. Lord Monck, 1 Ball & Beat, 303.

As may the contrary presumption, against a double gift:

rol proof is received, not to contradict, but, to corroborate the will.

shall be held accumulative, and not a substitu tion; this is no more than a prima facie presumption, liable to be rebutted, by inference collected from the wording of the testamentary instru-And, where the rules of Courts of ments (i). Equity raise a presumption of a contrary kind, that is, against the intention of a double gift, by reason that the sums and the motives are the same in such case, pa- in both instruments; there, parol evidence will be received, to shew, that the testator actually intended the double gift he has expressed (k). though parol proofs are not to be admitted in contradiction of the will, yet, when they go only in confirmation and corroboration of what appears to be the testator's intent by his written will, there. such parol evidence may be admitted to fortify it (l).

gative Court of Canterbury, that, there would seldom be much question in other Courts about accumulative legacies, if the principle established in A gift by a co- that Court were rightly understood (m). principle, as laid down by Sir John Nicholl, is, that, where a paper is codicillary, a legacy given tended as the inperson by the will, to which such codicil is annexed: but that, where there is a complete will, and

It was said, on a recent occasion in the Prero-

dicillary paper is accumulative: but a gift by an instrument inception of a new will is not.

⁽i) Robinson v. Whitley, 9 Ves. 580; Barclay v Wainwright, 3 Ves. 466; Coote v. Boyd, 2 Br. 528.

⁽k) Hurst v. Beach, 5 Mad. 360.

⁽¹⁾ Lady Gainsborough's case, 2 Freem. 189; Taylor v. Taylor, 1 Atk.386; Brown v. Selwyn, Ca. temp. Talb. 242.

⁽m) Ingram v. Strong, 2 Phillim. 312.

an instrument intended (not as a codicil, but,) as the inception of a new will, though not completed; the legacy given by the latter instrument revokes that given by the former, and is substituted in the place of it. With submission, however, to the very learned civilian, this charge, that, the principles laid down by him were not rightly understood elsewhere, may be controverted. It is believed, The application that, they have all been long understood, and act- of these general rules, however, ed upon over and over again, in Courts of Equity. requires occasional modifica-The only doubt in these Courts has been, as to tion in Equity. the application of the general rules, when they are met by conflicting principles of (what may perhaps be called an artificial) Equity. That a gift by a codicil must, generally, be considered as accumulative to a gift by the will, has long been settled, in the Court of Chancery (n): and it is no modern doctrine of that Court, that, where an intention to substitute a new and distinct will is shewn, the rule turns the other way (o).

In no Court, of course, can a contingent legacy, given by a codicil, be held a substitution for, or a legacy given by revocation of, a bequest in the will, to the same absolute bequest amount, but subject to no contingency; the two in the will. gifts are of totally different things; and it would be unreasonable to presume that one was intend-

A contingent

ed

(n) Hooley v. Hatton, 1 Br. 389, note; Foy v. Foy, 1 Cox, 1644 Baillie v. Butterfield, 1 Cox, 392; Ridges v. Morrison, 1 Br. 389; Moggridge v. Thackwell, 1 Ves. Jun. 472; Barclay v. Wainwright, 3 Ves. 465; Osborne v. Duke of Leeds, 5 Ves. 380; Benyon v. Benyon, 17 Ves. 42; cum plurimis aliis.

(o) Jackson v. Jackson, 2 Cox, 43; Allen v. Callow, 3 Ves. 294; Coote v. Boyd, 2 Br. 528.

legacy by codiinal bequest.

A substituted ed to be satisfied by the other (p). A substituted, regacy by coul-cil, is subject to or additional, legacy; given by codicil, must, prima the same incidents as the orig-facie, be understood to be attended with the same incidents, to be charged upon the same fund, and subject to the same conditions, as the original bequest for which it was substituted, or to which it was added (q).

Slight differences between by a parent for a child are not regarded:

to adeem it:

tled subject to limitations, may adeem an abso-lute gift by will.

In the case of double provisions by a parent for ences between double provisions a child, slight circumstances of difference are not regarded: at least, where the question is, (not whether a bounty is meant to satisfy a debt. but.) whether one bounty is to be substituted in the a portion, much place of another (r). And this leaning against less than a legacy, has been held double portions has, in some cases, gone to the extent of holding, that, a portion, though much less than a legacy, may operate as an ademption of the legacy (s): such cases receive a much less rigid construction than questions as to the performance, and a portion set- or satisfaction, of a covenant; a Court of Equity will not inquire whether a portion, given by will, was given absolutely to a child, and whether a sum of money, afterwards advanced on the marriage of such child, or other occasion calling for it, was given subject to limitations; but, unless contrary intention appear clear, will hold the portion advanced by the parent, or person standing in loco parentis, in his lifetime, an ademption of the legacy

- (p) Hodges v. Peacock. 3 Ves. 787.
- (q) Crowder v. Clowes, 2 Ves. Junr. 450; Chatteris v. Young, 6 Mad. 31; Learcroft v. Maynard, 1 Ves. Jun. 279;
- Cooper v. Day, 3 Meriv. 156. (r) Hartop v. Hartop, 17 Ves. 191; Twisden v. Twisden, 9 Ves. 427. See, ante, p. 284.
- (s) Ex parte Pye, 18 Ves. 151.

given by his will (t): whether such legacy be, or be not, described in the will as a portion (u). where portions for children are provided by settle- for a portion, ment, or any means whatsoever, (which the parent may satisfy his covenant to seis bound to make good,) if the parent give a pro- cure it in his lifevision, by will, for a portion: this is held to be an advancement made and secured in his lifetime; therefore, it is a satisfaction, prima facie, and unless there are circumstances to shew it is not so intended (w): and a slight difference in the time of payment of the two provisions, (though, if the question arose out of a transaction originating with a stranger in blood, it might repel the presumption of intended satisfaction,) will not, as between parent and child, be regarded (x). But. property, either real or personal, taken by a child taken by a child under the intestaunder the intestacy, or partial intestacy, of the pa- cy of his parent, is no satisfaction rent, cannot be considered as an advancement se- of a portion: cured in the parent's lifetime (y); such property, therefore, is no satisfaction of a portion: nor is real estate, or a particular part of the personal estate, given to any child by the will of a parent who dies partly testate and partly intestate, ever brought into hotch-pot, preparatory to a division of the residue

A provision by a parent's will.

- (t) Trimmer v. Bayne, 7 Yes. 515; Twisden v. Twisden, ubi suprà; Monck v. Lord Monck, 1 Ball & Beat. 304.
- (u) Ex parte Pyc, 18 Ves. 153.
- (w) Leake v. Leake, 10 Ves. 489; Onslow v. Michell, 18 Ves. 494; Hinchcliffe v. Hinchcliffe, 3 Ves. 529; Rickman v.
- Morgan, 1 Br. 67, 2 Br. 396; Tolson v. Collins, 4 Ves. 491; Barrett v. Beckford, 1 Ves. Senr. 520.
- (x) Sparks v. Cator, 3 Ves. 535; Gartshore v. Chalie, 10 Ves. 14.
- (y) Onslow v. Michell, 18 Ves. 494.

sidue undisposed of under the statute of distributions (z).

A codicil does not set up again ed, revoked, or satisfied legacy:

Though, as we have seen, in most cases, a codia lapsed, adeem- cil has the effect of a republication (a), (supposing it to be duly attested, if it relate to real estate;) yet, a lapsed legacy, or one which has been adeemed, revoked, or satisfied, is not set up again by a codicil, merely ratifying and confirming the will To allow such an effect to such a cogenerally. dicil, would, in the case of a lapsed legacy, be permitting the codicil to operate in contradiction to the operation of Law: and in the cases of an adeemed, revoked, or satisfied legacy, such a construction would be in contradiction to the acts of Such a ratification is to be underthe testator. stood, only as it is consistent with the other acts done by the testator: correctly speaking, it does not operate by way of republication (b). even where the codicil has the effect of a republication, if the codicil were made with reference to a particular subject upon which it cannot act,-to a power, for instance, which is gone—another subject, not in the contemplation of the testator, will not be affected by the codicil; which must be construed with reference to the real intent (c).

and a codicil made for a particular purpose, will not affect another subject not contemplated by the testator.

When a will creates a trust, subject to a prevition of the word ous life-interest given, to pay and transfer to certain

The construcwill, may be a nice question:

- (z) Twisden v. Twisden, 9 Ves. 425: see, ante, pp. 284, 285.
- (a) Hulme v. Heygate, 1 Meriv. 294: and see, ante, p. 313.
 - (b) Drinkwater v. Falconer,
- 2 Ves. Senr. 626; Izard v. Hurst, 2 Freem. 224; Monck v. Lord Monck, 1 Ball & Beat.
- (c) Holmes v. Coghill, 7 Ves. 505: see, ante, pp. 296 & 306.

tain individuals the trust funds, equally, at twentyone; with a clause of survivorship in case any one, or more, should die, before his, or their, share, or shares, become payable; and a limitation over in case the whole number should die before the said trust monies become payable by virtue of the will: the word "payable" is, here, a word of ambiguous the true sense import; it may either have reference to the capa- from the evidence city of the persons to take; in which sense, the which the context affords of the age of twenty-one is the period fixed by the will, testator's intenas the time at which the shares shall be payable; or, the word may be understood in another sense. as referring to the interest of the tenant for life, till whose death the shares could not be payable. The distinction may be of the utmost importance with regard to the limitation over; but the true construction, in every case of the kind, must be collected from the context, and the evidence it affords of the testator's intention (d). And one doubtfully expressed bequest may be explained, by the testator's own exposition as to another bequest of a similar nature (e). So, a legacy, given in trust for two children, when they shall attain terion may shew, that the word twenty-one, to be equally divided between them; "when" is to be applied to the and in case both should die in their minority, then possession only, over; will be held to be postponed as to possession vesting of a leonly by the word "when," and not as to the vest-

The same criand not to the

ing.

(d) Hallifax v. Wilson, 16 Ves. 172; Blamire v. Geldart, 16 Ves. 316; Bayard v. Smith, 14 Ves. 476; Hope v. Lord Clifden, 6 Ves. 499; · Schenk v. Leigh, 9 Ves. 310.

(e) Stenhouse v. Mitchell, 11 Ves. 357; Turner v. Moor, 6 Ves. 559; and see Swayne v. Fankener, Show. P. C. 209; Foubert v. De Cresseron, Show. P. C. 196.

But, to justify this construction, there ing(f). must be other circumstances, or expressions, in the will, shewing such to have been the testator's intent; for, the word "when"-standing by itself. unqualified and unexplained --- is a word of condition; denoting the time when the gift is to commence(g): the absolute gift of the intermediate interest would denote a clear intention that the legacy should vest (h). The word "then." in the limitation of estates is, not an adverb of time, but, of relation to some conditional antecedent (i).

and the word "then" is not necessarily an adverb of time.

The phrase "legal represent-atives" admits two constructions; the context must determine the proper one.

A bequest to the testator's "legal representatives," may mean, either the artificial representation granted by the Ecclesiastical Court; or it may be intended to point out those who would take under the statute of distributions. Taking the words 'by themselves, the first would be the proper construction; but the context may shew that, the testator meant his next of kin, within the statute: and the Court, if satisfied that such was the The same rule intent, will carry it into execution (k). So, if a testator direct, that, the whole of his property property snan pass by his codicil, "according to law," save

holds, if a testator direct that his property shall to law."

- (f) Branstrom v. Wilkinson, 7 Ves. 422; Lane v. Goudge, 9 Ves. 230; Lambert v. Parher, Coop. 145.
- (g) Hanson v. Graham, 6 Ves. 243; Leake v. Robinson, 2 Meriv. 386; Scott v. Chamberlayne, 3 Ves. 303.
- (h) Hanson v. Graham, 6 Ves. 250.
 - (i) Dormer v. Beauclerk, 2

- Atk. 310; Reeves v. Brymer, 4 Ves. 698; Pinbury v. Elkins, 1 P. Wms. 564; Bigge v. Bensley, 1 Br. 190.
- (k) Jennings v. Gallimore, 3 Ves. 147; Long v. Blackall, 3 Ves. 490; Bridge v. Abbot, 3 Br. 226; Evans v. Charles, 1 Anstr. 132; Horseman v. Abbey, 1 Jac. & Walk. 387; Holloway v. Holloway, 5 Ves. 402.

and except certain specified legacies; and, afterwards, by an unconnected clause, he appoint an executor: although neither construction is free · from difficulties, it has been held, that, it is more natural to infer an intention in favor of the next of kin, than of the executor (I).

It is a rule of Law, that, whoever claims under a will as "heir male of the body," so as to take by can take, by purpurchase, must be right heir, as well as neurest heir chase, as "heir male of the male descendant of the body of the person under body," who is not whom he claims. To take by descent, it is sufficient to be nearest in descent, claiming all along through males, notwithstanding a female be heir general; this has long been established as the true construction of the statute de donis (m): but, to take by purchase, the claimant must be heir general as well as heir male (n). Still, Lord Hardwicke, but, the rule is whilst admitting the rule, held it not to be so uni- not absolutely without excepversal as to admit no exceptions; and, according. tion: ly, in a case where such appeared clearly to have been the intention of the testator, his Lordship decided, that, the heir male took by purchase, though he was not heir general (o). For the word for the construc-"heirs," in a will, is always understood as application of the word "heirs," in a will, ble to such heirs, only, as the testator meant; and is governed by the intent: this construction is frequent even in legal limita-

It is a general

tions.

Ferrers, 2 P. Wms. 2.

(o) Newcomen v. Bethlem Hospital, Ambl. 11; and see Pybus v. Mitford, 1 Ventr. 381; Counden v. Clerke, Hob. 34; Austen v. Taylor, 1 Eden, 365; S. C. Ambl. 377.

⁽l) Lord Cranley v. Hale, 14 Ves. 310.

⁽m) Stat. 13 Edw. 1, (or Westm. 2), c. 1.

⁽n) Shelley's case, 1 Rep. 103, Co. Litt. 24, b; and see Mr. Hargrave's third note, thereto subjoined; Dawes v.

Thus a devise tions (p). to a man and his heirs, with remainder to one law, is construed as an estate tail.

Thus, where a devise is made to a man and his heirs, and, if he die without heirs, remainmainder to one who may be the devisee's devisee's heir at heir at law; such limitation will be good, and the first limitation construed an estate tail, not a fee; though if the second limitation be to a stranger, it is merely void, and the first limitation is a fee sim-The reason of the distinction is, that, in the case last put, there is no intent appearing to make the words carry any other sense than what they import at Law; but in the former, it is impossible the devisee should die without an heir, while the remainder-man, or his issue, continue; and therefore the generality of the word heirs will be restrained to heirs of the body (q).

A testator's effect, unless he to use them in a different sense.

" during the term of the said charge upon evelease.

It is, however, a sound general rule of construcwords are to be construed accord- tion, that, the words made use of by a testator shall ing to their legal be interpreted according to their legal effect and clearly intended operation; unless it clearly appear, that, he intended to use them in a different sense (r). If, there-Thus, an annui- fore, a bequest of an annuity be charged upon a ty charged upon leasehold estate, "during the term of the said lease;" though it may be, probably enough, lease," will be a suspected, that, the testator imagined the annuity ry renewal of the would cease with the actually existing lease; yet, as.

- (p) Allanson v. Clitherow, 1 Ves. Senr. 25; Durbison v. Beaumont, Fortescue, 22, 25, 27, 31.
- (q) Tyte v. Willis, Ca. temp. Talb. 1; Attorney General v. Gill, 2 P. Wms. 370; Nottingham v. Jennings, 1 P. Wms. 24.
- (r) Thelluson v. Woodford, 4 Ves. 329; Holloway v. Holloway, 5 Ves. 401; Deane v. Test, 9 Ves. 152; Ex parte The Earl of Ilchester, 7 Ves. 368; Attorney General v. Vigor, 8 Ves. 294; Perry v. Woods, 3 Ves. 206.

as, in contemplation of Law, whoever has an interest in a lease has an interest in the renewal thereof, and when an additional term is granted the old may be said to be still in being (s); upon these grounds, an annuity so bequeathed will be a charge upon every renewal obtained by the devisee of the leasehold lands: but the annuitant must contribute, in proportion to his interest, towards the expenses attending such renewals (t).

It would be a manifest perversion of the gene- But, in order ral rule of construction, above stated, if it were ap- tention, Equity plied without the qualifications by which it ought will look, not at a particular sento be restricted: no Court will ever entrap a tes-tence, but, at the tator in words, not allowing him to explain them (u). Although a particular sentence in a will, therefore, if it stood alone, might furnish a legal inference of a certain mode of distribution; yet Courts both of Law and of Equity hold, that, for the purpose of collecting the intention, every part of the will must be considered (w). The nice-The grammatical ties of grammar may, in some instances, allow a skill of the writer, sentence, which is included within a parenthesis, niceties of punctuation, will not to be considered as totally independent, or even to be allowed to be entirely rejected as superfluous (x); but no such struction of a will. liberty must, (at least without absolute necessity,

to collect the in-

control the con-

and

⁽s) Rame v. Chichester, Ambl. 719; Randall v. Russell, 3 Meriv. 196.

⁽t) Winslow v. Tighe, 2 Ball & Beat. 206.

⁽u) Crone v. Odell, 1 Ball & Beat. 472, 480; Loveacres v. Blight, Cowp. 355.

⁽w) Gitting v. Steele, 1 Swanst. 28; Bootle v. Blundell, 1 Mer. 217; Wright v. Atkyns, 1 Turn. & Russ. 158; Pitman v. Stevens, 15 East, 510.

⁽x) Gascoigne v. Barker, 3 Atk. 9.

and to avoid repugnancy,) be taken with a testamentary instrument; the sense of which must, if possible, be collected from the whole context, not from the punctuation; otherwise, the effect of a will might depend on the grammatical skill of the writer (y). It is not, however, to be inferred, that. in legal instruments, the use of a parenthesis is never to influence the construction; on the contrary, it may even be supplied in a will where it is deficient, if such an improvement upon the punctuation be necessary to make the whole clear and in-Every word of telligible (x). For, nothing is better established. sistent with the as a general rule, than that effect ought to be given to every word of a will (a); provided an effect can be given to every word not inconsistent with the general intent of the whole will, taken toge-If the general intention can be collected. Courts of Equity will be anxious to adapt every part so as to meet that general intent: but if two parts of a will are totally irreconcilable, it was Lord Alvanley's repeatedly expressed opinion, that, the latter ought to prevail; and, that, the subsequent words must be taken as an indication of a subsequent intention (b). This rule, however, sistent, the last, it was restricted by the learned Lord to those cases, only, where two parts of a will are totally inconsistent, so that it is impossible for them to coin-

a will, not incongeneral intent, ought to have effect given to it:

if two passages be totally inconseems, ought to prevail.

> (y) Sanford v. Raikes, 1 Meriv. 651

Ves. Junr. 270; Gray v. Missethorpe, 3 Ves. 105.

cide:

⁽z) Doe v. Allcock, 1 Barn. & Ald. 142: and see Cans v. Cave, 2 Eden, 145.

⁽a) Collet v. Lawrence, 1

⁽b) Constantine v. Constantine, 6 Ves. 102; Sines v. Doughty, 5 Ves. 247; Milsom v. Amdrey, 5 Ves. 467.

cide(c): in all other cases, as there can be no will at all previous to execution, the testator must be understood to have contemplated every part as taking effect at one and the same time (d).

Equity will never suffer a positive bequest to be controlled by inference and arguments from the lify words otherother parts of the will (e). Slight circumstances may, indeed, be held sufficient to qualify and restrain general words; in order to afford an interpretation of a will, which would otherwise be repugnant (f): but, an express disposition in an ear- but a positive bely part of a will, must not receive an exposition controlled by from a subsequent passage, affording only a con-conjectural exposition. jectural inference (g): a testator must never be supposed to have meant more than he has expressed (k): nor will a Court of Equity reject, on the other hand, words having an obvious meaning; upon a suspicion, that, the testator did not know what he meant, when he used them (i).

Slight circumstances may quawise repugnant ;

But, although a Court is to determine as to the Yet, where the intent of a testator from the words which he has general intent is plain, it may be used; yet, when the general intention is plain, it aided by construction; will be aided by taking considerable liberties with the construction: thus, it has been held not neces- thus, words may

be transposed, to

Sary

- (c) Constantine v. Constantine, ubi suprà; Jones v. Colbeck, 8 Ves. 42; Galland v. Leonard, 1 Swanst. 163.
- (d) Langham v. Sandford, 2 Meriv. 11, 22.
- (e) Jones v. Colbeck, 8 Ves. 42: see, however, Wright v. Atkens, 1 Turn. & Russ. 158.
 - (f) Thelluson v. Woodford,

- 4 Ves. 325. See infrå.
- (g) Collet v. Lawrence, 1 Ves. Junr. 269; Roach v. Haynes, 8 Ves. 590.
- (h) Browne v. Lord Kenyon, 3 Mad. 415.
- (i) Milnes v. Slater, 8 Ves. 306; Southcote v. Watson, \$ Atk. 233; Elwin v. Elwin, 8 Ves. 555, 561.

apparent on the face of the will;

meet the intent sary to take the words in the order in which they stand, if by their transposition the apparent intent of the testator would be better answered (k): or, as the rule was laid down more restrictedly in another case, (and it seems less open to objection when so limited,) "a Court of Law as well as of Equity -and a Court of Equity has no greater latitude in construction of wills, and transposing the words thereof, than a Court of Law has-will, to make sense of a will otherwise insensible, and to make it take some effect rather than to be totally void, often transpose words to attain the intent that, on the face of the will, the testator had: but, in no case, where the words are plain and sensible, is a transposition made, in order to create a different meaning and construction; much less to let in different devisees and legatees; which is a very different thing from the case where the persons to take are certain, and the question is only concerning the construction of the words creating the limitation, or interest to be taken (I)."

but where the words, as they stand, are plain and sensible, transposition is never allowed.

Effect of a recital in a will, as quest, may be tantamount to a present disposition.

If a testator, by a subsequent paper, profess to of a previous be- have bequeathed, by a former instrument, that which he has not bequeathed; that paper may be proved as testamentary; and the property will So, it seems, the recital of a gift, as antecedently made in the same will, may amount to a gift

> (k) East v. Cook, 2 Ves. Senr. 32; Brownsword v. Edwards, 2 Ves. Senr. 248; Boon v. Cornforth, 2 Ves Senr. 278.

> (l) Duke of Marlborough v. Lord Godolphin, 2 Ves. Senr.

74: and see Chambers v. Brailsford, 19 Ves. 654; Eden v. Smyth, 5 Ves. 355; Loveacres v. Blight, Cowp. 355, 357.

(m) Druce v. Dennison, 6 Ves. 397.

a gift of personalty; but, admitting this, a Court will at least require to see, very clearly, that, there is nothing in the will to which the recital can refer, before it is turned into a distinct bequest (n). And, on the other hand, a bequest actually made, or a power given, cannot be controlled by the reason assigned. The assigned reason may aid in the construction of doubtful words, but cannot justify led by the reason the rejection of words that are clear (o). A fadse recital in a will has never been allowed to amount to a devise of real estate (p).

A positive beassigned:

The word "issue" is properly a word of purchase, and means descendants. It is used, how-deemed either a ever, in the statute de donis without an idea of word of purchase, or of limitation, purchase annexed to it; and in wills it constantly as best suits the acts in a double capacity, as will best answer the intention (q). If the word issue appear to have been used by a testator with an intention to describe, not descendants generally, but, children, Courts will give it that construction: we have seen, but ambiguous however, that, the operative and effective part of sage, cannot cona clause will not be controlled by ambiguous trol another pas sage which is unwords, occurring in the introductory part of it (r): equivocal.

The word "isevident intention:

(n) Smith v. Fitzgerald, 3 Ves. & Bea. 8. A mere recital in a will of a gift "therein after made," is inoperative; Frederick v. Hall, 1 Ves. Jun.

- (o) Cole v. Wade, 16 Ves. 46.
- (p) Bamfield v. Popham, 1 P. Wms. 59; Right v. Hammond, 1 Str. 428; Wright v. Wivell, 8 Lev. 259.
- (q) Dodson v. Grew, Wilmot, 277; Lyon v. Mitchell, 1 Mad. 473; Marshall v. Bousfield, 2 Mad. 174; Freeman v. Parsley, 3 Ves. 423; Knight v. Ellis, 2 Br. 578; Shaw v. Weigh. Fortescue, 74.
- (r) Lord Orford v. Churchill, 3 Ves. & Bea. 67; Hampson v. Brandwood, 1 Mad. 388; Leigh v. Norbury, 13 Ves. 344; Doe v. Pearce, 1 Price, 365.

or a subsequent clause of limitation, as to one subject of devise, be governed by words of introduction which, though clear, are not fairly applicable to that particular subject (s); nor, vice versa, can a previous part of a will, which, taken by itself, is clear, be altered, or controlled, by a subsequent designation, the meaning of which is doubtful (t).

Where the intent requires it, material words may even be supplied:

sure, however, is rarely employed, except where a will has created an executory trust:

Where the intent is clear, but, in order to give effect to it, the strong measure of supplying material words is absolutely necessary, it should seem, that, neither Courts of Law (u), nor Courts of Equity (w) have deemed it an excess of their authorithis strong meaty to do so (x). Generally speaking, however, the liberty of supplying new terms, and remodelling a loosely expressed purpose, only takes place where a will creates an executory trust, unaccompanied with the limitations necessary to secure it: for instance, where the informal language of a testator would put the whole property devised into the power of the first taker, to the exclusion, perhaps. of those who were the principally intended objects of the testator's bounty; there, when the assistance of Equity is required to direct a conveyance, those directions

⁽s) Denn v. Gaskin, Cowp. 661.

⁽t) Barker v. Lea, 3 Ves. & Bea. 117. See suprà.

⁽u) Doe v. Micklem, 6 East, 492.

⁽w) Dodson v. Hay, 8 Br. 407; Brownsword, v. Edwards, ubi suprà; Morse v. Lord Ormond, 5 Mad. 114; Mellish v. Mellish, 4 Ves. 50; Phillips

v. Chamberlayne, 4 Ves. 57; Holmes v. Craddock, 3 Ves. 321.

⁽x) White v. Carter, 2 Eden, 368; S. C. on appeal, Ambl. 671; Baskerville v. Baskerville, 2 Atk. 280; Green v. Stevens, 17 Ves. 76; Papillon v. Voice, 2 P. Wms. 478; Lord Glenorchy v. Bosville, Ca. temp. Talb. 18.

directions will be given according to the intent apparent upon the will; if that intent be not contrary to the rules of Law: and though the words of the bequest may omit the necessary limitations, these will be supplied; and a strict settlement directed, if the clear intent would otherwise be liable to be defeated. But, whenever an express, immediate inter- when an immeest is devised, it has been pronounced not to be in devised, Equity the power of a Court of Equity, by construction, will not, by construction, alter to make the devise pass any other interest than the interest exthat which is expressed (y). It is true, that, according to the well-known rule in Shelley's case (x), case. wherever the ancestor takes an estate of freehold. and an immediate remainder is thereon limited, in the same gift or conveyance, to his heirs, or heirs in tail, (if both the estates be of the same quality, that is, if both be legal, or both equitable, estates,) such remainder is immediately executed in the ancestor. So, although an estate for life, or in tail, be interposed between the freehold taken by the ancestor, and the gift, limited in the same instrument, to his heirs, this remainder to the heirs vests We have, indeed, just seen, that, not less binding in the ancestor. in respect of executory trusts created by will, or Law, where the marriage articles, and not carrying the legal estate; legal estate is given: and if not Courts of Equity, in favor of the intent, will over- always adhered to in cases of exstep the legal operation of the words by which the ecutory trusts, is trust is created: but, in all other instances, the from except to rule in Shelley's case is as much regarded in Equi- support a limitation over.

diate interest is pressly given.

Effect of the rule in Shelley's

in Equity than at never departed

⁽y) Wright v. Pearson, 1 (s) 1 Rep. 93. See this Eden, 123; Jervoise v. Duke of subject most lucidly discussed Northumberland, 1 Jac. & in Fearne's Conting. Rem. chap. Walk. 571. 1, sect. 5.

ty as at Law. And it is also fully settled, that, whatever will, directly or constructively, constitute an estate tail in land, will pass an absolute interest in personal property (a). This, it is plain, is not in contradiction to the declaration of Lord Hardwicke, that, if ever a greater latitude of construction is admitted in Equity, with respect to wills, than would be allowed at Law; this never takes place to defeat, but to support a limitation over (b).

The doctrine by which an estate for life, is sometimes contail, in order to to real estate.

It should be observed, however, that, the doctrine of cy pres, according to which the words of given to a parent, a testator are sometimes moulded, to effectuate strued an estate his general intention, by construing an express esmakehischildren tate for life, given to a parent, as if it were an es-Take as purchasers, applies only tate tail, where his children, the principal objects of the intended bounty, could not take as purchasers(c); extends only to real estate: and never was held applicable to personal property (d). with respect to real estate, it has been judicially, and repeatedly, declared, that, the doctrine of cy pres has already been carried, at least, to the very verge of the Law; that, it would not be proper to go one step farther; and that, the cases in which it has been attempted to combine the general intent with the particular intent, have gone

The same words far to destroy both (e). The same words may be have the same differently

- (a) Britton v. Twining, 3 Meriv. 183; Chandless v. Price, 3 Ves. 101.
- (b) Fonnereau v. Fonnereau, 3 Atk. 317; Shephard v. Lessingham, Ambl. 125.
 - (c) Routledge v. Dorril, 2
- Ves. Junr. 364; Crone v. O'Dell, 1 Ball & Beat. 470; Robinson v. Hardcastle, 2 T. R. 254.
- (d) S. C. p. 365; Leake v. Robinson, 2 Meriv. 379.
- (e) Brudenell v. Elwes, 7 Ves. 390; S. C. 1 East, 450.

differently construed, and have different opera-meaning given tions, when applied, in the same will, to different them throughout a will; only descriptions of property, governed by different when they are applied to the rules (f). For though, where the same words oc-same sorts of procur in different parts of the same will, it may be a sound general rule, to give them the same meaning throughout (g); yet, we have seen, that, the same words of limitation which will give an estate tail in freehold property, will carry the absolute interest in leasehold (h).

When it is once established that material words may, in any instance, be added, to eke out a tes- words may be rejected. tator's meaning, there can be no difficulty in acceding to the propriety of rejecting repugnant words (i); and to strike them out as surplusage and void, where the admission of a loose phrase would go to alter a large, plain, and particular disposition before expressed (k).

Repugnant

The cases are numerous which establish, that, the word "or" may be construed conjunctively, may be construed conjunctively; and the word "and" disjunctively, in order to and the word "and" disjuncgive effect to all the words of a will (l); or to af-tively;

The word "or" may be construed

ford

- (f) Forth v. Chapman, 1 P. Wms. 667; Keiley v. Fowler, Wilmot's notes, 313; Elton v. Eason, 19 Ves. 77.
- (g) Goodright v. Dunham, 1 Dougl. 267; Doe v. Jesson, 5 Mau. & Selw. 99; Hans v. Haws, 3 Atk. 526; Turner v. Moor, 6 Ves. 559.
- (h) Exell v. Wallace, 2 Ves. Senr. 325; Crooke v. De Vandes, 9 Ves. 203; Green v. Stephens,

17 Ves. 73.

- (i) Boon v. Cornforth, 2 Ves. Senr. 278; Keiley v. Fowler, Wilmot, 309.
- (k) Green v. Armsteed, Hob. 65; Countess of Bridgewater v. Duke of Bolton, 6 Mod. 100; a case said by Lord Hardwicke (in 1 Ves. Senr. 11) to be well reported: Roberts v. Kyffyn, 1 Barnard. Cha. Ca. 261.
 - (1) Bell v. Phyn, 7 Ves. 459.

ford a reasonable construction (m); it has, however, been said, that, this convertible use of the words can only be justified by strong necessity: and where the clause in which either word is found would, without such construction, be absolute nonsense (n): and, at all events, it must be distinctly shewn, that, the intention of the testator re-Strong instance quires such a construction (o). One strong instance, in which the word "or" has, in order to effectuate the intent, had a meaning different from its obvious one assigned to it, is the case in which Lord Thurlow decided, that, a bequest to a woman, or to her children for eyer, should be construed to give the mother an interest for life, with remainder to the children at her death (p).

of the free construction of the word " or."

When grandchildren are allowed to take under a bequest to "children."

Under a bequest to "children," where there are children to answer the proper description, grandchildren are not permitted to share along with them; although where there is a total want of children, grandchildren have been let in, under a liberal construction of the word "children (q):" which is a word of purchase in its primary sense; and is never construed as a word of limitation, unless the testator's intention cannot otherwise have any effect (r).

Where

- (m) Maberley v. Strode, 3 Ves. 454.
- (n) Fitzgerald v. Lord Fauconberge, Fitz-Gib. 215, 222.
- (o) Turner v. Moor, 6 Ves. 560; Weddell v. Mundy, 6 Ves.
- (p) Newman v. Nightingale, 1 Cox; 341: and see Longmore
- v. Brome, 7 Ves. 128.
- (q) Reeves v. Brymer, 4 Ves. 698; Royle v. Hamilton, 4 Ves. 439; Radcliffe v. Buckley, 10 Ves. 201; Earl of Orford v. Churchill, 3 Ves. & Bea.
- (r) Buffar v. Bradford, 2 Atk. 222.

Where it is alleged, that, the execution of a will has been fraudulently obtained, by a misrepresen-inquire whether tation of the purport and effect of one of its clauses; a will was exea Court of Equity may, if sufficient grounds ap- tor in consepear, direct an issue, to inquire whether the clause representation. complained of does, in truth, constitute part of the will of the testator; and if the jury find, that, the clause does not constitute part of the will, but is void for fraud; a decree will be made in Equity accordingly (s).

An issue may be directed, to a will was exequence of a mis-

The facilities of committing fraud would be so great if parol evidence were easily let in, to explain a testator's meaning, that, in most instances, such evidence is rejected (t); and in those cases in rebut a presumpwhich it is admitted, it is always scrutinized with go to control a jealous vigilance; its reception is guarded by strict precautions; and, generally speaking, (though with some other exceptions, to be presently noticed) its effect is limited to the sole purpose of rebutting a presumption, which would otherwise go to control a legal right (u). When no such presumption arises, and where the only difficulty proceeds from an ambiguity patent on the face of a will; the vast preponderance of authority has firmly established, that, parol evidence cannot be let in: it would.

But parol evidence, to explain a testator's meaning, is seldom admitted, unless to tion which would legal right.

A patent ambiguity lays no ground for the admission of pa-

(s) Hippesley v. Homer, 1 Turn. & Russ. 48, n.

(t) Ulrich v. Litchfield, 2 Atk. 373; Brown v. Selwyn, Ca. temp. Talbot, 242; Nicholls v. Osborn, 2 P. Wms. 420; Doe v. Chichester, 4 Dow, 90.

(u) Trimmer v. Bayne, 7 Ves. 518; Druce v. Dennison, 6 Ves.

397; Clennel v. Lewthwaite, 2 Ves. Junr. 474; Langham v. Sandford, 17 Ves. 443, 449; S. C. on appeal, 2 Meriv. 17, 23; Petit v. Smith, 1 P. Wms. 9; Blinkhorne, v. Feast, 2 Ves. Senr. 58; Lake v. Lake, Ambl. 127; Lynn v. Beaver, 1 Turn. & Russ. 68.

would, indeed, be mere pedantry to cite cases in

is always receiv-

persons bear the dence may be given to shew which of the two 'was meant.

auswers; the gift

support of a position which, so long ago as in Lord Bacon's time, was received as a fixed maxim of Law (w); if ambiguities of this description, in one sentence of a will, cannot be explained by which, however, the context, the defect is irremediable. But, where ed to explain la- the words of the will are, in themselves, plain; yet, tent ambiguities: a difficulty in applying them arises from a state of facts and circumstances dehors the will; to explain such latent ambiguities, evidence is constantthus, where two ly admitted (x): thus, "if a man has two sons both same name, evi- baptized by the name of John, and conceiving that the elder (who has been long absent) is dead, devises his land to his son John generally, and in truth the elder is living; in this case the younger son may, in pleading or in evidence, allege the devise to him; and, if it be denied, he may produce witnesses to prove his father's intent, and that he thought the other to be dead(y)." It may happen, that, in cases justifying the admission of parol evidence, such evidence, when received, may be insufficient to remove the latent ambiguity; and in such cases the devise must necessarily be void: Where a gift is thus, if a gift by will be made to a person by name, made to one by name, but a description inapplicable to that person scriptionis added, not applicable to superadded, which description, however, it is shewn the person nam-ed, but which by evidence another individual precisely answers: another precisely the evidence to this effect will leave the intention must fail, unless in, at least, as much obscurity as clouded it on the

> (w) Lord Bacon's Maxims of the Law, Regula 23.

1 Ves. Junr. 415.

(y) Lord Cheyney's case, 5 Rep. 69; Doe v. Chichester, 4 Dow, 90, 93.

face

⁽x) Baugh v. Read, 1 Ves. Jun. 259; Delmare v. Robello,

face of the will; and the devise must fail for un- it be proved that certainty, unless it can be indisputably proved, serted by misthat, the name of the party specified was inserted take. by mistake, instead of the name of the party answering the description annexed (x). When, indeed, a person is clearly made out by averment, to be the person meant by a mistaken devise, and there can be no other to whom it may be applied, the misnamed devisee will take (a): but the evidence must be conclusive (b). Should both the name and the description, used by a testator to desig-the name and the description apply nate the object of his bounty, belong equally to equally to two individuals, evitwo individuals: these are facts dehors the will dence to shew raising a latent ambiguity, to resolve which parol is admitted. evidence may be admitted: and if one of the parties was very intimate with, and the other but little known by, the testator, the presumption in favor of the former will be very strong (c).

It is quite settled, that, an inaccurate description, unnecessarily superadded, will not vitiate a devise description unnecessarily added, to objects otherwise sufficiently described with cor- will not vitiate a devise. rectness (d). And a mere mistake in the christian name (e), or the spelling of the surname (f), or even in both (g), will not make a bequest void, if it can be distinctly shewn by evidence who was the

party

- (z) Thomas v. Thomas, 6 T.
 - (a) Rivers' case, 1 Atk. 410.
- (b) Del Mare v. Rebello, 3 Br. 451.
- (c) Careless v. Careless, 19 Ves. 604.
- (d) Smith v. Campbell, Coop. 278; Stockdale v. Bushby, 19
- Ves. 388; Holmes v. Custance, 12 Ves. 280.
- (e) Parsons v. Parsons, 1 Ves. Junr. 266; Smith v. Coney, 6 Ves. 42.
- (f) Masters v. Masters, 1 P. Wms. 425.
- (g) Beaumont v. Fell, 2 P. Wms. 141.

recting mistakes

Rules as to cor- party really intended to take: and where a blank in, or supplying is left for the christian name of a legatee, that may the omission of be made good by averment (A): but a surname left in blank cannot be so filled up (i): though there is an instance (it is believed a solitary one) in which Lord Rosslyn ordered the Master to receive evidence, previously rejected by him, to shew who a legatee, described in the will simply as "Mrs. G.," was (k). Without presuming to insinuate, that, this decision transgressed principle; a belief may be permitted, that, it went to its extreme limits: it seems barely reconcileable with the axiom that parol evidence is not admissible to explain a patent ambiguity.

If a legacy be given to the two daughters of a man who has three; the legacy will be divided among all.

If a testator give a legacy to the "two" daughters of a man who in fact has three daughters, this is an ambiguity not capable of being removed by evidence; but, the practice of the Court of Chancery (though the principle has been doubted), treats this as a mere slip of expression, and all the daughters are admitted to an equal participation And if a sum of the testator's bounty (l): Following the same be given to each of the three chil- course of reasoning, it has been determined, that, dren of A., who, if a legacy be given in these terms, namely, " to at the time, had if a legacy be given in these terms, namely, " the three children of A. the sum of £600 each," each of the four will be entitled and, at the date of the will, A. had four children, the specified number is to be disregarded, and each child is entitled to a legacy of £600 (m). Where

four children, to the specified sum.

(h) Price v. Page, 4 Ves. 680.

(i) Hunt v. Hort, 3 Br. 311; Castledon v. Turner, 3 Atk. 258; Baylis v. Attorney General, 2 Atk. 239.

(k) Abbot v. Massie, 3 Ves.

(1) Stebbing v. Walkey, 2 Br. 86; Scott v. Fenhoulhet, 1 Cox's Ca. 80: see post.

(m) Garvey v. Hibbert, 19 Ves. 126.

Where the meaning of an instrument admits a clear construction, that such meaning is "strange" is clear, it specifies must not be talked of, either upon a deed or a from; but, to aswill(n): a Court of Equity must not reason from certain a doubtful meaning, the the inconvenient results, and be induced thereby absurdities to put a different construction on the words low one construcused (a); but can only conclude, that, the testator tended to. did not see all the consequences of the disposition he has made: still, in endeavouring to ascertain the meaning of a testator, the absurdities, improbabilities, and inconsistencies, which may arise out of one construction, or be avoided by another, have constantly been attended to, with a view, solely, to ascertain the true meaning (p). And this qualification of the general rule, which forbids derations of this kind, the state of travelling out of the will, must be borne in mind, the testator's fawhenever that rule is urged for the purpose of ex-disregarded: cluding all consideration of the state of the testator's family: such consideration (there is judicial authority for asserting) has, under certain circumstances, been clear Law, from the time of Wild's case (q), to the present day. The objection.

Where the meaning of a will which would foltion are to be at-

And in consimily is not to be

- (n) Moseley v. Moseley, 5 Ves. 259; Gaskell v. Harman, 11 Ves. 496.
- (o) Innes v. Johnson, 4 Ves. 573; Smith v. Streatfield, 1 Meriv. 361; Bernard v. Montague, 1 Meriv. 431.
- (p) Earl of Radnor v. Shafto, 11 Ves. 457; Leighv. Leigh, 15 Ves. 103; Marquis Cholm. mdeley v. Lord Clinton, 2 Jac. & Walk. 129; Bengough v. Walker, 15 Ves. 515; Jenkins v.

Herries, 4 Mad. 82; Jones v. Suffolk, 1 Br. 529; Phillips v. Chamberlayne, 4 Ves. 59.

(q) 6 Rep. 17. Wild's case is said not to have been allowed to be Law, in Peacock v. Spooner, 2 Vern. 195: but in the report of the same case in 2 Freem. 114, this dictum, for it was at all events no more, does not appear. But even if it did, Peacock v. Spoener is a case never followed, unless it occurs in ip-

the opinion given by the Court of the case of White v. Barber.

though, by itself, tion was taken in Goodinge v. Goodinge (r), and forming no ground for alter overruled by Lord Hardwicke; whose opinion ing the obvious upon that point has been confirmed by the uniform decision of Courts of Equity ever since (s). But, although the state of the testator's family may be taken into account, it seems, in aid of other circumstances; yet, that consideration alone will not authorize a Court of Equity to alter the ob-Quare, as to vious construction of a will (t). It may, however, be difficult to reconcile with this rule, an opinion King's Bench, in returned by the Court of King's Bench, to a case directed out of the Court of Chancery: the common Law Judges certified their opinion, that, a testator who, by will, had made a provision for any child with which his wife might prove enceinte at the time of his decease; must have intended to comprehend all the children which should be born of his wife, whether before or after his decease. The learned Judges were, therefore, of opinion, that, notwithstanding the defect of expression in the will, children born before the testator's death were virtually included in the provision made for his posthumous children (u). Natural feeling would lead every mind to go along with this opinion; had the testator contemplated the situation in which his family was actually left at his death, he probably

> sissimis verbis. Theebridge v. Kilburne, 2 Ves. Senr. 237; Webb v. Webb, 1 P. Wms. 135; Lyon v. Mitchell, 1 Mad. 483.

- (r) 1 Ves. Senr. 232.
- (s) Crone v. Odell, 1 Ball & Beat. 481; Harris v. Bishop of Lincoln, 2 P. Wms. 136; Lake
- v. Lake, 1 Wils. 314; Hampshire v. Pierce, 2 Ves. Senr. 218. See, post, p. 352.
- (t) Radcliffe v. Buckley, 10 Ves. 203; Godfrey v. Davis, 6
- (u) White v. Barber, 5 Burr. 2708.

probably would have provided for that course of events, exactly in the way in which it was proposed to remedy his omission. But, as the testator had not done so; it may be questionable, how far the not by construcdecision contradicted the rule, that, no Court is au- for a man. thorized to make a will for a man (w). We have, indeed, already seen, that, subsequent marriage, and the birth of a child, may operate a revocation of a will: but then, the two circumstances, it has been repeatedly laid down, must both concur: and marriage alone, or (as in White v. Barber) the birth of children alone, have been often pronounced insufficient to work a revocation (x). Barber, therefore, was not decided, or even argued, on this ground; but upon the "virtual inclusion of children actually born, under a provision for posthumous children." Other cases have held, that, posthumous children should be included in a description of children living at a testator's death; but this, it is believed, is the only case in which a designation of a child in ventre sa mere has been held to apply to a child actually born. ment humanely established, what the testator, undoubtedly, ought to have done: but, still the question will remain, whether it was he who made a proper will, or whether the Court made it for him.

There is no ground for adding an implied case, to that which is expressed in a will, where ing an implied Thus, where case to that the implication is not necessary (y).

There is no which is expressa testator, ed in the will, where such im-

⁽w) Humberstone v. Stanton, 1 Ves. & Bea. 390.

⁽x) Shepherd v. Shepherd, 5 T. R. 54, note; cited, ante, p. 299, which see: but see, also,

Johnston v. Johnston, 1 Phillim.

⁽y) Bayard v. Smith, 14 Ves. 477.

plication is not a a testator, though under every obligation to pronecessary one.

vide for all his children, so expresses himself, perhaps through inadvertence, as to exclude children born after the making of his will from a share in the distribution of his property; the oversight can-When poethu- not be supplied by construction: but, when he has may be included directed maintenance, in terms sufficiently general to comprehend all his children, a proper allowance for the maintenance, education and bringing up of all the children will be ordered; notwithstanding the bequest of the capital is, by the terms of the will, limited to children living at the making thereof (x).

mous children in a direction for maintenance; though shut out from any share in the division of their parent's property.

Rate of interest allowed upon legacies given in foreign currency.

cies paid in the currency of the country where the will was made; if the property was also situated there.

admitted to explain any re-

Legacies given expressly in the currency of a foreign country, will, it seems, bear interest according to the rate of the country, so long as the money is there employed for the benefit of the general estate (a); but not when the legatees prefer coming against assets in this country; in such case they can only claim the ordinary rate of in-General lega- terest (b). Unascertained or general legacies must be paid in the currency of the country in which the will was made (c); at all events, if the property was also situated there (d): and to shew whether this was, or was not, the case, evidence dehors the Parol evidence will may be indispensable. And where a legacy is given on condition that the legatee should be in

- (z) Matchwick v. Cock, 3 Ves. 611: Freemantle v. Taylor, 15 Ves. 363.
- (a) Raymond v. Broadbelt, 5 Ves. 206; Malcolm v. Martin, 3 Br. 53.
 - (b) Bourke v. Ricketts, 10

Ves. 333.

- (c) Lansdowne v. Lansdowne, 2 Bligh, 92; Pierson v. Garnett, 2 Br. 47.
- (d) S. C. Cockerell v. Barber, 16 Ves. 465.

the testator's service at the time of his decease; the ference to extrinconversation of the testator, though not admissi- ing the condible to prove upon what terms the legacy was given, ject, of a devise. to alter, detract from, or add to, the terms of the will: may be the best possible evidence of the fact. that, the legatee was considered by him to be then in his service (e). And, generally, where the subject of a devise is described by reference to some extrinsic fact, it is not merely competent, but necessary, to admit extrinsic evidence, to ascertain the fact, and, through that medium, to ascertain the subject of the devise. In such cases, the question is not upon the devise, but upon the subject of it; nothing is offered in explanation of the will, or in addition to it: the evidence is only to ascertain what is included in the description which the testator has given of the thing devised (f). This, it must be at once apparent, is a totally distinct and value of a thing from resorting to the state and value of a ty, afford no criterion for detestator's property, as a criterion from which his termining his inintention may be collected. Where the terms lauguage is unused by the testator are unambiguous, such a criterion would be inadmissible to affect the construction (g). Yet, although Courts may be bound to though where the

But the state tention, where his

terms are not

give

- (e) Herbert v. Reid, 16 Ves. 486.
- (f) Sanford v. Raikes, 1 Meriv. 653; Judd v. Pratt, 13 Ves. 174; Druce v. Donnison, 6 Ves. 400.
- (g) Kellett v. Kellett, 1 Ball & Beat. 542; Goodtitle v. Edmunds, 7 T. R. 640; Doe v. Chichester, 4 Dow, 93; Stan-

den v. Standen, 2 Ves. Junt. 593; Lord Inchiquin v. French. Ambl. 40; Duke of Ancaster v. Mayer, 1 Br. 466; Andrews v. Emmot, 2 Br. 300; Stephenson v. Heathcote, 1 Eden, 43: Druce v. Dennison, 6 Ves. 400: Nannock v. Horton, 7 Ves. 400; Jones v. Tucker, 2 Mer. 537; Bland v. Lamb, 5 Mad.

plain and express, the situation of the testator and his family may fairly to his true meaning.

give effect to the clear import of a will, however revolting to natural feelings the disposition thereby made may be; still, where the words of the will afford some clue do not peremptorily exclude all extrinsic considerations, it is fair, as stated above, to contemplate the situation of the testator and his family, as some guide to his intention (h). The two positions last stated are, on this plain ground, very reconcileable: but, as obiter dicta in contradiction to both are to be met with, it has been thought right to support each principle by a citation of more numerous authorities than accords with the general plan of the present writer; who (judging from his own feelings) has deemed that, in most instances, a reference to two or three leading cases in point, would be a more acceptable mode of performing the task he has undertaken, than if he were to swell his work, by transferring to the notes all the manuscript references made in the margins of his collection of reports, having a collateral bearing upon the question he may at the time be engaged with; or than if he condescended to the still easier, but less hon-

> 413; Sibley v. Perry, 7 Ves. Gittins v. Steele, 1 Swanst. 29; Jones v. Curry, 1 Swanst. 71; Smith v. Maitland, 1 Ves. Junr. 364; Cave v. Cave, 2 Eden, 144.

> (h) See, ante, pp. 347, 348; Munyard v. New, 3 Swanst. 124; Doe v. Gillard, 5 Barn. & Ald. 788; Bland v. Lamb, 2 Jac. & Walk. 406; Penticost v. Ley, 2 Jac. & Walk. 209; Fonnereau v. Poyntz, 1 Br. 480; Finch v.

Inglis, 3 Br. 425; Bengough v. Walker, 15 Ves. 514; Leigh v. Leigh, 15 Ves. 104; Attorney General v. Grote, 3 Meriv. 319; Hinchcliffe v. Hinchcliffe, 3 Ves. 525, 529; Selwood v. Mildmay, 3 Ves. 310; Barksdale v. Gilliat, 1 Swanst. 565; Porter v. Tournay, 3 Ves. 312; Page v. Leapingwell, 18 Ves. 466; Stapleton v. Colvile, Ca. temp. Talb. 208; Lynn v. Beaver, 1 Turn. & Russ. 68.

est, mode of assuming credit for research, by copying without examination, or directing an amanuensis to copy, the references collected by the industry of others: thus, exposing his readers, perhaps, to the useless trouble of looking at cases, which, however appropriately placed where they originally stood, might be found very little applicable to the point which they, deceptively, professed to confirm.

In addition to the grounds upon which it has Evidence of the been already attempted to reconcile, what have state of a testator's property, been thought, the contradictory declarations with less frequently admitted where respect to the propriety of admitting, or rejecting, the question turns on the execution evidence of the state of a testator's property, as of a power; or the some clue to his meaning; it may be observed, which was the that, the apparent discrepancy may be still farther testator's property only in a quadiminished, (it is not asserted that it will be entirely removed.) by recollecting, that, in full one perty was his half of the cases cited in which this consideration was deemed inadmissible, the question turned upon the execution, or non-execution, of a power; or whether the testator had, or had not, intended to dispose of that which was his only in a qualified sense. Whilst, in all the cases cited, without exception, in which the evidence was admitted, the property was absolute in the testator. in the case of a power, as the principle is, that, with regard to real estate where there is nothing for the will to operate upon, unless with reference to the power, it must operate as an execution of 'the power (i); an inquiry into the state of the testator's

disposal of that when the proown absolutely.

⁽i) Lewis v. Llewellyn, 1 Curry, 1 Swanst. 72. Turn. & Russ. 107; Jones

accurately ex-

iustances in the case of loosely worded legacies of stock.

Such evidence tator's property may, here also, be necessary. may be requisite, rol evidence of the state of a testator's property what the testator may also be properly admitted, when it is clear intended to give when he has in- the testator intended to give something, but his pressed himself: description is so inaccurate, that, unless a Court can travel from what he has said to something else, the intention must be entirely disappointed. Thus, where stock is bequeathed by an improper denomination, evidence may be let in to correct the mistake (k). In such cases, the will is plain, indeed, on the face of it, but, if it can be proved the testator acted upon the idea, that, he had the stock he bequeathed, a latent ambiguity exists, which, as we have seen, is a proper subject for The distinction is this, if the tesparol evidence. tator had possessed the stock at the time he made his will, and had given it specifically, any act of his destroying that subject would be proof of animus revocandi; but if the mention of stock be introduced only by way of denomination, not as a gift of the identical corpus, in that case, if the thing itself cannot be found, and there is a mistake as to the subject out of which it is to arise, that will be rectified (l). However, when a testator gives a sum of stock described as "standing in his name," and he neither has the stock described standing in his own name, or in trust for him (m), nor any other

see, ante, p. 316.

⁽k) Hewson v. Reed, 5 Mad. 451; Penticost v. Ley, 2 Jac. & Walk, 211; Dobson v. Waterman, 3 Ves. 308, n; Door v. Geary, 2 Ves. Senr. 256; Gallini v. Noble, 3 Meriv. 692:

⁽¹⁾ Selwood v. Mildmay, 3 Ves. 310.

⁽m) Hewson v. Reed, 5 Mad. 451.

other stock, the legacy must fail (n): but a mistake as to the correspondent amount of the stock and of the legacy given, may be a fit subject for a reference to the Master (o).

As a general rule, if a legacy be given to two or more, equally to be divided between them, or, to ship is to take the survivor or survivors of them; and there be no place, will not be special intent discoverable in the will (p); the technical words; if a clear intensurvivorship is to be referred to the period of di-tion can be colvision (q). That period will not depend upon any whole will. technical words, but on the apparent intention of the testator, collected either from the particular disposition, or the general context of the will (r). If there be no previous interest given in the legacy, then, the ordinary period of division is the death of the testator; and the survivors at his death will take the whole legacy (s). But, if a previous life estate be given, then, the period of division is the death of the tenant for life, and the survivors at that time take the whole (t). If an immediate de- Under a bequest vise, "to all children and grandchildren" of the testes, no indivitator, or of another person, be made in terms which duals who are not in esse when vest the property in possession upon his death; the fund is distributable can take: none but those in esse at that time can take, for the fund is then distributable; and consequently

The period at which survivor lected from the

⁽n) Evans v. Tripp, 6 Mad. 91.

⁽o) Alford v. Green, 5 Mad.

⁽p) Russell v. Long, 4 Ven. 555; Elvin v. Elvin, 8 Ves.

⁽q) Cripps v. Wolcott, 4 Mad. 15.

⁽r) Newton v. Ayscough, 19

⁽s) Stringer v. Phillips, 1 Eq. Ca. Ab. 293; Shergold v. Boone, 13 Ves. 375.

⁽t) Daniell v. Daniell, 6 Ves. 300; Jenour v. Jenour, 10 Ves. 566; Browne v. Lord Kenyon, 3 Mad. 416.

but, though the cluded. devise be immediate, if the vesting in possestake a share.

any after-born children, or grandchildren, are ex-But, although the devise be immediate, yet, if the vesting be postponed, so that no immevesting in posses-sion be postpou- diate distribution need take place; all who answer ed, those born be-fore the time of the description, not at the death of the testator, distribution will but those born afterwards, and before the fund is to vest in possession, will take (u). Notwithstanding this disposition, however, on the part of Courts of Equity, to include all the children of a family, where it is probable that all were equally within the intention of the testator (w); still the rule of exclusion, (which, though it has been "wondered" at, and termed an "artificial" one (x), is founded on strong necessity,) must prevail, when a distribution is to take place, before those who might otherwise be entitled, come in esse (y). When, under a devise, children take in their own rights, they take per capita (z); when by representation, and in right of their parents, they take per stirpes (a).

When children take per capita; and when per stirpes.

> In all cases of future legacies, where the individual holding a certain character is to be excluded, the Court (unless the terms of the will express-

When a future . legacy is given, excluding the individual holding a certain char-

- (u) Crone v. O'Dell, 1 Ball & Beat. 483; Walker v. Shore, 15 Ves. 125; Stanley v. Wise, 1 Cox, 433; Scott v. Harwood, 5 Mad. 335; Singleton v. Gilbert, 1 Cox, 72.
- (w) Whitbread v. St. John, 10 Ves. 154; Hutcheson v. Jones, 2 Mad. 129.
- (x) Leake v. Robinson, 2 Meriv. 383; Andrews v. Partington, 3 Br. 404.
 - (y) Gilbert v. Boorman, 11

Ves. 238; Defflis v. Goldschmidt, 19 Ves. 570; Jee v. Audley, 1 Cox, 324; Davidson v. Dallas, 14 Ves. 578.

- (z) Lady Lincoln v. Pelham, 10 Ves. 176; Blackler v. Webb, 2 P. Wms. 384; Northey v. Strange, 1 P. Wms. 342.
- (a) Rowland v. Gorsuch, 2 Cox, 189; Wythe v. Thruston, Ambl. 556, and stated from Reg. Lib. in Davenport v. Hanbury, 3 Ves. 259.

ly shut out that construction,) consider, that, the acter; at what party who answers the description at the time of determined who distribution, was the intended object of exclusion; is the object of exclusion. and not the person to whom the description would have applied at the date of the will, or at the testator's decease. Thus, if a legacy be given amongst the children of a family, excluding the heir; a child who at the date of the will was a second son, but who previously to the division of the fund has And, in or- Construction of the words become the heir, will be excluded (b). der to answer the intent, the words "younger "younger childchildren" have been construed with such latitude. (when the bequest has been made by a parent,) as to let in an eldest daughter, whose brother, though younger than herself, took the family inheritance; and to shut out that younger brother, as being the heir (c). But, under a devise to a man for life, with remainder to his third, fourth, and other sons ed in a second successively, except the first or eldest son, this re- by his becoming mainder is contingent only until the first devisee the eldest survivhas two sons born, both living; when that happens, the estate comes the remainder becomes vested in the second son. to take effect in possession upon his father's death; and will not be divested in consequence of his becoming, before his father's death, the eldest or only surviving son; unless the will afford a plain indication, that, such was the testator's intent (d).

An estate in remainder, vesting son, before into possession.

(b) Matthews v. Paul, 3 Swanst. 339; S. C. 2 Wils. Ch. Ca. 77; Bowles v. Bowles, 10 Ves. 182; Lady Lincoln v. Pelham, 10 Ves. 174; Lord Teynham v. Webb, 2 Ves. Sen. 210; Chadwick v. Doleman, 2

Vern. 530.

(c) Beale v. Beale, 1 P. Wms. 244; Bretton v. Bretton, 2 Freem. 158; Heneage v. Hunloke, 2 Atk. 455; Hall v. Hewer, Ambl. 204.

(d) Driver v. Frank, 6 Prite,

A conversion " out and out," rected only for a particular purpose, which fails; or does not exhaust the produce.

ing trust will be as realty, though the conversion

has been made:

Where a testator has directed, what is termed, excludes the heir; a conversion "out and out," that is, that his real but not so when the conversion of estate shall at all events be sold, and convertreal estate is die ed into personalty, and has made a complete disposition of the same, the claims of the heir at law are, of course, excluded (e); but where such conversion is only directed with reference to a particular purpose, which fails altogether (f), or in part(g); or which does not exhaust the produce of the real estate directed to be sold (h); there will. in all these cases, be a total, or a partial, resulting And the result- trust in favor of the heir at law (i): and, although taken by the heir the estate has been converted, the whole, or the remaining, produce of that conversion will still, with respect to the heir, be considered as realty, not personalty (k): and, of course, would go to his representative according to the quality of the property he would himself have taken (1); unless he has done some act, or demonstrated some intention, after he acquired the possession, impressing

> 75; Marquis Cholmondeley v. Lord Clinton, 2 Jac. &. Walk. 116.

- (e) Mallabar v. Mallabar, Ca. temp. Talb. 80; Durour v. Motteux, 1 Ves. Senr. 322; Kennell v. Abbot, 4 Ves. 810; Lowes v. Hackward, 18 Ves. 171.
- (f) Hooper v. Goodwin, 18 Ves. 166: Tregonwell v. Sudenham, 3 Dow, 210; Jones v. Mitchell, 1 Sim. & Stu. 294.
- (g) Ackroyd v. Smithson, 1 Br. 518; Smith v. Claston, 4

Mad. 492.

- (h) Maughan v. Mason, 1 Ves. & Bea. 416; Ashby v. Palmer, 1 Meriv. 301.
- (i) Gibbs v. Ougier, 12 Ves. 416; Collins v. Wakefield, 2 Ves. Junr. 687.
- (k) Hill v. Cock, 1 Ves. & Bea. 175; Currie v. Pye, 17 Ves. 467; Lowes v. Hackward, 18 Ves. 171: Ackroud v. Smithson, 1 Br. 514.
- (l) Walter v. Maunde, 19 Ves. 428; Smith v. Claxton, 4 Mad. 493.

it with a different character (m). But, where a disposition by will has been made to trustees, with conversion is a power given to them to convert, or forbear to given to trustees, and not comconvert, the real estate devised, and to distribute pletely executed by them; the same as they should think proper; if, in con- the heir at law sequence of their death after having made a par- and the next of kin must take the tial conversion, a Court of Equity be called on to property as they find it: make the distribution, the heir at law and the next of kin (as there is no equity in favor of either) must take the fund as they find it: the real estate, unconverted, will remain real; and whatever has been converted into personal estate, in the due execution of the trust, must be taken as personal (n). The Court will not act for the mere purpose of converting one species of property into another (o). It should be observed, however, that, when real estate is devised in trust for one who is a stranger in an estate directed blood to the testator; and the devise directs a to be converted out and out, takes conversion of the property, not merely for the purits as personalty, though it be not pose of meeting particular occasions, but, out and converted. out; there, if the residuary legatee (being the cestui que trust) take the property in statu quo, the real estate must still be considered, in Equity, for many purposes, as sold, although the trustees have not actually converted it into money: it will be liable to legacy duty as personalty; and if the residuary legatee had died before election, it would have gone to his personal representatives (p).

optional power of

blood, who takes

Where

⁽m) Biddulph v. Biddulph, 12 Ves. 165; Kirkman v. Miles, 13 Ves. 339.

⁽n) Walter v. Maunde, 19 Ves. 427, 429.

⁽o) Croft v. Slee, 4 Ves. 65; Walker v. Denne, 2 Ves. Junr.

⁽p) Attorney General v. Holford, 1 Price, 433.

Distinction between a devise testator's debts; and a devise on

Where a testator gives his real estate to A. and charged with the his heirs, charged with his (the testator's) debts; that is a devise for a particular purpose, but not trust to pay such for that purpose only. If the devise be, on trust to pay the testator's debts; that is a devise for a particular purpose, and nothing more. The wide difference of effect is this:—the first mode is a devise of an estate of inheritance for the purpose of giving the devisee the beneficial interest, subject to a particular purpose: the latter, is a devise for a particular purpose, with no intention to give him any beneficial interest. When, therefore, the whole legal interest is given for the purpose of satisfying trusts expressed, and those trusts do not exhaust the whole; so much of the beneficial interest as is not exhausted belongs to the heir: but, where the whole legal interest is given for a particular purpose, with an intention to give to the devisee of the legal estate the beneficial interest, if the whole be not exhausted by the particular purpose; the surplus goes to the devisee, as it Executors, un was intended to be given to him (q). personalty "sub- struction is different, when personal estate is givject to" legacies, en to executors "subject to and chargeable with" legacies; under such a bequest the executors take no beneficial interest: but are trustees of whatever surplus may remain (r). Where a testator, after directing his debts to be paid, names certain persons as "trustees of inheritance" for the execution of his will; they are trustees of his real estate, for payment, not only of debts, but, of legacies (s).

der a bequest of tees.

Where

⁽q) King v. Denison, 1 Ves. & Bea. 272.

⁽r) S. C. p. 278. (s) Trent v. Hanning, 10

Where part of the real estate of a testator, or intestate, is, at the time of his death, subject to a representatives, covenant to convey the inheritance in the same to where a testator's estate is subject the tenant thereof, in case of his electing to take it to a conditional at a certain price; until such election is made, the vey the same. rent belongs to the heir, or devisee; but the purchase money, when the election is declared, will be considered as personal estate of the testator, or intestate; and, as such, will go to his legatees, or next of kin(t).

several classes of covenant to con-

The statute (u) in restraint of directions by will for accumulations of property, for a longer period restraint of accumulations, conthan twenty-one years; or during the minority or respective minorities of any person or persons who, sions for payment under the uses or trusts of the will directing such accumulation would, for the time being, if of full age, be entitled unto the annual produce so directed to be accumulated; contains an exception as to provisions for payment of debts, or for raising por- or for raising por-Therefore, when an estate is given to trustions. tees to pay debts, and then to a person designated, the statute does not apply; the payment of the testator's debts may exhaust the produce of the estate for a longer or a shorter time, but the person designated takes at once, subject to the debts. The estate vests, and the property is not tied up; though a fund is provided thereout for some specific charges (x). It is to be observed, that, the statute

The statute in tains an exception as to proviof debts:

Trusts which go beyoud the

Ves. 499; S. C. 7 East, 105: 15, 1805. and, on appeal, 1 Dow, 102. (u) Stat. 39 & 40 Geo. 3, c. (t) Townly v. Bedwell, 14 Ves. 506 sciting Lawes v. Ben-(x) Bacon v. Proctor, 1 net, decided at the Rolls, Feb. Turn. & Russ. 40.

are void for the excess only.

prescribed limits statute last cited was intended only to guard against the inconvenience of locking up property, for a longer period than twenty-one years: whenever an accumulation for a longer term is directed, the policy of the act is sufficiently complied with, by declaring the trust void for the excess, only (v). if a trust for accumulation would have been bad independently of the statute, it is not made good by the statute (x).

The natural conclusion is, that made a will intended to die completely testate:

Very special words required of a residue to a limited operation.

It is the most natural construction, that, a pera person who has son who has left a will intended to die completely testate: a Court of Equity, therefore, will not be disposed to impute intestacy, in consequence of events, the contingency of which could not have escaped the devisor's notice, if his words can, by aid of any fair presumption, be held sufficient to extend to that contingency (a). And, with reto confine a gift spect to personal estate, it is generally inferred. that. a testator who gives all his property, meant to give. not only all he had at the time of making his will, but, all that he might have at the time of his death. It is true, indeed, that the gift of a residue may be so worded as to have a limited operation; but very special words are required to take a bequest of a residue out of the general rule (b). If a general residuary

- (y) Longdon v. Simpson, 12 Ves. 298; Griffiths v. Vere, 9 Ves. 131; Lord Southampton v. Marquis of Hertford, 2 Ves. & Bea. 61.
- (z) Marshall v. Holloway, 2 Swanst. 450.
- (a) Whittell v. Dudin, 2 Jac. & Walk. 283; Bird v. Huns-
- don, 2 Swanst. 345; Booth v. Booth, 4 Ves. 403; Crooke v. De Vandes, 9 Ves. 106; Phillips v. Chamberlaine, 4 Ves.
- (b) Bland v. Lamb, 2 Jac. & Walk. 405; Page v. Lcapingwell, 18 Ves. 466; Attorney General v. Johnstone, Ambl.

residuary clause profess to give every thing "not specifically disposed" of by the will, the testator will be understood to have meant every thing not particularly disposed of: it would be too technical and artificial a construction to hold, that, he meant, in case of a lapse, to die intestate with regard to all sums specifically bequeathed, and testate as to all general pecuniary legacies: if, therefore, under such a will a legacy, specifically given, should lapse, it will be looked upon as comprehended in the general residuary bequest (c). The case would be dif-but a lapsed, or ferent as to an annuity charged on lands; if that charged on lands, lapsed, or was void in its creation as being contrary sinks for the benefit of the real to the policy of the Law, it would sink, either for estate. the benefit of the specific devisees of the estate on which it was charged (d); or, of the heir at law (e), if the charge was severed from the devise.

A lapsed legacy goes to the general residuary

It must be a very peculiar case, in which there can at once be a residuary clause and a partial in- the residue fails, to testacy as to the testator's personalty; unless some that extent the will must be inpart of the disposition of the residue itself fail (f): operative: to the extent of such failure, the will must be inoperative. In the instance of a residue given in moieties, to hold that one moiety, lapsing, should accrue to the other, would be to hold that a gift of a moiety of a residue should eventually carry the whole (g). With this exception, a residuary le-but, generally, a

Where part of the disposition of

gatee residuary lega-

579; Davers v. Dewes, 8 P. Wms. 42.

(c) Roberts v. Cooke, 16 Ves. 453; Crooke v. De Vandes,

11 Ves. 332.

(d) Baker v. Hall, 12 Ves. 500.

(e) Tregonwell v. Sydenham, 3 Dow, 208.

(f) Leake v. Robinson, 2 Meriv. 398.

(g) Skrymsher v. Northcote,

1 Swanst. 571.

devise.

thet " residuary executors.

What passes house, " and all that should be in tor's death.

Quare, 25 to bank notes.

tee takes all lapse gatee takes every thing personal that lapses (h); ed personalty; though a residu. although, by a distinction, in favor of the heir at ary devisee does not take a lapsed law, which is well settled, a residuary devisee does not take a lapsed devise (i). Of course, executors, as such, can have nothing to do with their testa-Force of the epi- tor's real property (k); and the epithet "residuary" when used as to added to their description could only avail them in a question with the next of kin(l).

Lord Hardwicke repeatedly decided, that, ununder a bequest der a bequest of the testator's house "and all that should be in it" at the testator's death; cash passit," at the testa- ed, and bank notes, which, his Lordship held, were to be considered as cash (m); but not promissory notes and securities, as they are evidence of title to things out of the house, and not things in it. Lord Thurlow (n), Lord Redesdale (o), and Richards, C. B.(p), have referred to these decisions, and treated them as binding authorities; but Lord Eldon has intimated, that, bank notes came, within precisely the same consideration as other securities

- (h) See, however, post, that a general residuary clause is not equivalent to a devise over of bequests upon condition.
- (i) Dawson v. Clark, 15 Ves. 415; Cambridge v. Rous, 8 Ves. 25; Gravenor v. Hallam, Ambl. 645; Attorney General v. Johnstone, Ambl. 580; Jones v. Mitchell, 1 Sim. & Stu. 294.
- (k) Dawson v. Clark, on appeal, 18 Ves. 253; Trent v. Hanning, 10 Ves. 499.

- (1) Berry v. Usher, 11 Ves. 92.
- (m) Southcote v. Watson, 3 Atk. 232; Popham v. Lady Aylesbury, Ambl. 68; Chapman v. Hart, 1 Ves. Senr. 273.
- (n) Moore v. Moore, 1 Br.
- . (o) Fleming v. Brook, 1 Sch. & Lef. 319.
- (p) The King v. Capper, 5 Price, 265: and see Lord Mansfield's judgment in Miller v. Race, 1 Burr. 457.

rities and choses en action: no decision upon the subject was, however, then called for (q).

With respect, however, to real estate, a devise of all a testator's "property," or, "all he is worth," perty," or of "all if unqualified by the context (a) will page the fee. he is worth;" if if unqualified by the context (r), will pass the fee; he is worth; if unqualified, will —the whole legal and equitable estate (s). And pass a fee: the word "estate," in a will, carries the whole real "estate," in a as well as personal estate, unless a contrary in the whole estate tention on the part of the testator appear, in- sonal; though ducing a Court to put upon that word a less ex-contained in a clause enumerattensive signification than it naturally bears (t). ing personal items. Even when the word is used in a clause containing an enumeration of the testator's personal estate, it may, nevertheless, include his real estate; if, upon the whole will, this can be inferred as the probable intention (u): but, in such cases, the meaning of the word "estate," like that of the word "effects," will, in general, be confined to estate or effects ejusdem generis with those enumerated; as being the most natural construction, when unexplained by the context (x). Though the word "effects," when used simpliciter, will be sufficient

A devise of all and the word will, may include both real and per-

⁽q) Stuart v. Marquis of Bute, 11 Ves. 662.

⁽r) Doe v. Hurrell, 5 Barn. & Ald. 21; Roe v. Yeud, 2 New Rep. 221; Doe v. Rout, 2 Marsh.

⁽s) Nicholls v. Butcher, 18 Ves. 195; Huxtep v. Brooman, 1 Br. 437; Roe v. Pattison, 16 East, 222; Noel v. Hoy, 6 Mad. 39.

⁽t) Barnes v. Patch, 8 Ves. 608; Chorlton v. Taylor, 3

Ves. & Bea. 163; Pettiward v. Prescott, 7 Ves. 545; Fletcher v. Smiton, 2 T. R. 659; Roe v. Wright, 7 East, 267.

⁽u) Woollam v. Kenworthy, 9 Ves. 144: the like holds as . to the word "property," Doe v. Langlands, 14 East, 373.

⁽x) Rawlings v. Jennings, 13 Ves. 46; Hotham v. Sutton, 15 Ves. 326; Stuart v. Lord Bute, 11 Ves. 666.

quent imperfect enumeration of bequest.

to convey a gift of the whole personal estate (y). When a testa- When a testator has made a general disposition of tor has given "all all his estate whatsoever," a subsequent enumesoever," a subservation of the articles of which he supposes his estate to consist, will not limit his bequest to the the particulars will not limit the particulars specified: he will be understood as intending to give all he could, though his statement of what he had was imperfect(x): this construction is by no means inconsistent with the rule which holds, that, to control the operative and effective part of a clause, by ambiguous words occurring in the introductory part of it, would be inad-A mistaken de. missible (a). It is a maxim, adopted by our own Courts of Equity from the civil code, falså demonstratione legatum non perimi (b); and, as a mistakdefeat a bequest. en description of the subject of gift will not invalidate a legacy, where the intent is clear (c); so, a mistake in computation will be rectified (d).

scription of the subject of gift, or an error in computation, will not

Under a devise of a testator's leasehold messuages, his mortgage interest in such premises may pass:

If a mortgagee of leasehold premises devise "his leasehold messuages;" although this description be not strictly applicable to premises on which he had a mortgage, yet, if it can be collected from the will, that, he intended by these words to give whatever interest he might have in such premises, that interest will pass under the improper denomination. The same construction would be made. even if a residuary clause of the same will con-

tained

- (y) Michell v. Michell, 5 Mad, 71; Campbell v. Prescott, 15 Ves. 507.
- (z) Chalmers v. Storil, 2 Ves. & Bea. 223.
- (a) Earl of Orford v. Churchill, 3 Ves. & Bea. 67.
- (b) Whitfield v. Clement, 1 Meriv. 404.
- (c) Clarke v. Guise, 2 Ves. Senr. 618.
- (d) Milner v. Milner, 1 Ves. Senr. 107; Danvers v. Manning, 2 Br. 22.

tained a clause disposing of all other (or even, it seems, of all) the testator's mortgage estates and interests. This construction would be the more admissible, if the testator had other mortgages besides the leasehold premises; so that the residuary clause would not remain inoperative, although these premises should not be comprehended in There is nothing in this contradictory to the decision, that, a mortgage for a term of years mortgage interest will not, will not pass under a devise of the mortgagee's usually, pass under a devise of lands, tenements, and real estates; more especi-real estate: ally when he has, by another clause of his will, disposed of his mortgages, and when he had only chattel interests of that description (f). Where though words a testator devises lands which have become his own, mortgage interabsolutely, by foreclosure; though he may inac-est, may pass the lands themselves, curately use such terms as would, more properly, be descriptive of a mortgage interest only; yet, if it appear to have been his intent not to give the money merely, as a charge upon the land, but the land itself, the whole estate will pass (g).

But a chattel

descriptive of a

A general devise will, commonly, pass an estate held in trust, or mortgage; unless from the estates held in words of the will, or from a disposition of the pro- trust, or mortperty inconsistent with the limited nature of the different intent devisor's right, it can be collected, that, he did not mean such estate to pass (h). For instance, it is quite

A general deage, unless a

⁽e) Woodhouse v. Meredith, 1 Meriv. 456: see, ante, p. 313, as to mortgages of freehold.

⁽f) Davis v. Gibbs, 3 P. Wms. 28.

⁽g) Silberschildt v. Schiott, 3

Ves. & Bea. 50.

⁽h) Lord Braybroke v. Inskip, 8 Ves. 433, 435; Ex parte Morgan, 10 Ves. 103; Ex parte Brettell, 6 Ves. 578.

which may be collected from the purpose to be devise:

be made, however, between a mere trustee, and a constructive which parties may require, as to this point, a very different exposition.

quite clear, that, a testator cannot subject an extate holden by him merely in trust to the payment of his own debts: if, therefore, a testator, by general words, give "all his estates, after payment of his debts," these words would afford a prima facie answered by the inference, that, he only meant to give that in which he had a beneficial interest, and which he had a power of charging with payment of his own debts (i). So, if a testator devise "all his estates." adding a direction that they should be sold; this direction would be quite incompatible with an intention to give an estate, which he held as a naked trustee. But, the analogy between the will of a naked trustee, and that of a constructive trus-Distinction to tee, must not be pushed too far. A mere trustee is a person who, not only has no beneficial ownership in the property, but, never had any. trustee; the se- respect, he does not resemble one who has agreed veral wills of to sell an estate, which up to the time of the contract was his own. Before it is known whether the agreement will be performed, he is not even in the situation of a constructive trustee: he is only a trustee sub modo, and provided nothing happens to prevent it. The purchaser is not bound till the title is made out, and it may be uncertain whether the contract can be completed: it would be unreasonable to hold, that, in such a state of things, a general devise of the vendor's estates would not carry an estate so circumstanced. would be pursuing the fiction of Equity,—that, an agreement entered into is to be considered as performed

(i) Roe v. Reade, 8 T. R. 122.

performed,—to practical consequences which the framers of the principle never contemplated. in the case put, the contract failed, the beneficial ownership would be undisposed of, unless the will were allowed to have effect. If the contract were performed, no injury could arise from that construction; the only difference would be, that, the devisees would have to convey, instead of the heir: but, by the other construction, a positive injustice would be done, if the contract were not performed; for the estate would go to the heir. contrary to the intent of the testator (k).

The distinction between an equitable estate, and an equitable right to have a conveyance of the le-recognized; gal estate (l); and, also, between the situation, and rights, of a naked trustee, and a constructive trustee (m); is fully recognized even by Courts of common Law, as far as those Courts are competent to deal with such questions. Still, an heir at law stillan heirat law will never be disinherited without an express de- will not be disinherited without monstration, that, such was the testator's in-express demonstration tent (n): although the words of a will, therefore, an intent. may be sufficient to make the devisor's real estate pass to his trustees; yet, if the devise to such trustees be upon trusts applicable only to personal property, the real estate will, indeed, pass to the trus-

But, though this distinction is

stration of such

tees.

⁽k) Ball v. Wright, 1 Jac. & Walk. 501, 504: see, also, Bubb's case, 2 Freem. 38.

⁽l) The King v. Inhabitants of Soddington, 1 Barn. & Ald. 505.

⁽m) The King v. Inhabitants

of Geddington, 2 Barn. Cressw. 134.

⁽n) Kellett v. Kellett, 3 Dow, 254; Tregonwell v. Sydenham, 3 Dow, 209; Upton v. Lord Ferrers, 5 Ves. 801.

tees, but it will be subject to a resulting trust in favor of the heir at law (o).

The heir, or devisce, may contracted for by devisor, completed, and paid for al assets.

An estate which a testator has contracted for, have a purchase, passes, as we have seen, under his will devising his the ancestor, or real estate; or descends to his heir, if no valid will exist: and, in either case, the heir, or devisee, may out of the person- insist on having the purchase completed out of the testator's personal assets. This doctrine, however, must be received with one special qualification, namely, that, the title to the estate contracted for turns out to be good; if it prove so defective that the testator himself could not have been compelled to take it; the heir, or devisee, will not be allowed to wave the defect, and call on the personal representatives to pay the purchase money; nor can they insist on having the price employed in the acquisition of another estate (p).

When an absolute bequest is a gift over, upon an event which is, at some time or other, inevitable: enable a Court to gency to its oca certain time.

When an absolute bequest is accompanied by a accompanied by gift over, upon the occurrence of an event which, from its nature, is, at some period or other, inevitable—as death, for instance,—if the words imply the context may contingency, it may be necessary to understand limit the contin- them as referring to the occurrence of the specified currence within event under particular circumstances, or within a certain time. The introduction of that qualification, if justified by any sufficient indications to be collected from the context of the will, may enable a Court to reconcile, and render sensible, the whole of the dispositions (q): but, on the other hand,

⁽o) Dunnage v. White, 1 Jac. Ves. 607, 612; Rose v. Co-& Walk. 585. nunghame, 11 Ves. 555.

⁽p) Broome v. Monck, 10

⁽q) Billings v. Sandom, 1

hand, it would be inadmissible, to cut down what purported to be an absolute gift into a gift for life, by introducing a qualification not necessary to render the whole will consistent (r).

A Court of Equity will never fetter personal pro- No construc party, by adjudging it to be held as an heir-loom, adofthecreation upon presumption; more especially in the case of heir-looms; of a testator who, when such was his intention, knew how to express it. A claim which, in effect, attempts to restrain alienation, and permanently to give to personalty the character of annexation to realty, can only be enforced on clear proof; not by doubts on the construction of a will (s). Still, where a testator has directed, that, certain though Lord personal chattels shall go as heir-looms; though looked on such the limitation may not have been made in such indulgently. terms as the Law, in a strict sense, requires for settling heir-looms; Lord Hardwicke seems to have held, that, a Court of Equity should be disposed to give effect to the clear intent, as far as it can be made consistent with the rules of Law (t). How-

tion, it seems, in

Br. 394; Trutter v. Williams, Prec. in Cha. 78; Galland v. Leonard, 1 Swanst. 164; Cambridge v. Rous, 8 Ves. 21; King v. Taylor, 5 Ves. 810; Webster v. Hale, 8 Ves. 413; Harvey v. M'Lauchlin, 1 Price, 271.

(r) Whittel v. Dudin, 2 Jac. & Walk. 286; Ommaney v. Bevan, 18 Ves. 291; Slade v. Milner, 4 Mad. 147; Lord Douglas v. Chalmer, 2 Ves.

Junr. 505; Hinckley v. Simmons, 4 Ves. 163; Webster v. Hale, ubi suprà.

- (s) Savile v. Lord Scarborough, 1 Swanst. 546: Boon v. Cornforth, 2 Ves. Senr. 280; Wythe v. Blackman, 1 Ves. Senr. 202.
- (t) Gower v. Grosvenor, Barnard, 56, 63; S. C. 5 Mad. 338, 249; Trafford v. Trafford, 3 Atk. 349.

absolutely in the

Heir-looms vest ever this may be, modern decisions have settled. first tenant in tail. that, the absolute interest, in chattels so given. vests in the first tenant in tail who comes in esse (u). And Lord Hardwicke himself admitted, that, the case of Leveson v. Gower went to the utmost al-Bill lies for de- lowable extent in favor of heir-looms (x). where a personal chattel has been well limited as an heir-loom, a bill in Equity will hold for a specific delivery thereof to the party entitled to the possession (y).

livery of an heirloom.

A child en ventre sa mere will children born in the lifetime of the testator.

It is now fully settled, that, a child en ventre sa share in a gift to mere is within the intention of a gift to children living at the death of the testator (x); and it follows, that, a child en ventre sa mere is to be considered within the intention of a gift to children born in the lifetime of the testator, such child being as plainly within the motive and reason of the gift(a).

Trustees for sale of estates ought not, generally, to grant leases.

Where an estate has been devised to be sold, it would, in general, be improper in the trustees to grant leases of such estate, which, in most cases, would be likely to prejudice the sale; but, if there be mines under the lands devised, and it appear, on a reference to the Master, that, it would be beneficial to the parties interested in the proceeds

of

- (u) Foley v. Burnell, 1 Br. 285; Vaughan v. Burslem, 3 Br. 106; Carr v. Lord Erroll, 14 Ves. 487.
- (x) Duke of Bridgewater v. Egerton, 2 Ves. Senr. 122.
 - (y) Earl of Macclesfield v.

Davis, 3 Ves. & Bea. 18.

- (z) Thelluson v. Woodford, 4 Ves. 334: Stat. 10 & 11 Wil. 3, cap. 16.
- (a) Trower v. Butts, 1 Sim. & Stu. 184.

of the sale, that, leases of the mines should be previously granted, as auxiliary to such sale, an order to that effect may be obtained (b).

If a testator make a general bequest of leasehold property, upon condition, that, the legatee illegal condition, should assign a certain leasehold estate, part of the condition is void, and the bethat property, to a charitable purpose; such a con-quest absolute. dition being illegal, the legatee will retain the whole leasehold property, discharged of the condition, and will not be considered as a trustee for the next of kin with respect to the void bequest to the charity (c).

If a legacy be coupled with an

Words of request (d), recommendation (e), or confidence (f), are sufficient to raise a trust, where request, recommendation, or the property to be given is certain, and the objects confidence, raise a trust; and when to whom it is to be given are also certain (g): not. but, when either the objects, or the nature and quantum of the subjects, are indefinite; this, in the consideration of Courts of Equity, is used as evidence, that, the mind of the testator was not to create a trust (h). And, whether such were the No ulterior trust intention, or not, it would be impossible for a an absolute lega-Court to execute a trust, the extent of which is not taker may, durdescribed with certainty: thus, where a testator, ing his lifetime, dispose of the

When words of request, recom-

by whole at his pleasure:

- (b) Jervoise v. Clerk, 6 Mad. 96.
- (c) Poor v. Mial, 6 Mad. 32.
- (d) Taylor v. George, 2 Ves. & Bea. 378; Pierson v. Garnet, 2 Br. 226.
- (e) Paul v. Compton, 8 Ves. 380; Pushman v. Filliter, 3 Ves. 8; Malim v. Keighley, 2

Ves. Junr. 335.

- (f) Parsons v. Baker, 18 Ves. 476; Wright v. Atkyns, on appeal, Cooper, 115.
- (g) Pierson v. Garnet, 2 Br. 45; Cruwys v. Coleman, 9 Ves. 323.
- (h) Morice v. Bishop of Durham, 10 Ves. 536.

by will, gives his property in terms which vest the absolute property in his legatee, the bequest will not be cut down by a subsequent clause, requesting, that, such part of the property as may be re-

Where proper- tach (i). ty is given absoit, his interest death, is void:

the first legatee whole) the rule seems different.

maining at the death of the first legatee, should go over to another designated object: the first legatee being at liberty to deal with the property at his pleasure, during his lifetime, there is no certain or ascertained part on which a trust can at-When property is given to a person ablutely in other respects, it cannot be subjected to spects, a proviso, a proviso, that, if he do not spend it, his interest tee do not spend shall cease at his death: this would be an attempt shall cease at his to separate the devolution of property from the property itself; and one fraudulent consequence would be, that, if he had not spent it, and were to die indebted to any amount, his creditors, who may have become such in reliance on his absolute property, but, if the gift to would be excluded from it (k). Yet, where the bebe expressly for quest to the first legatee is not absolute, but exmay dispose of the pressly for life only; there, it seems, though it be accompanied with a power to sell and dispose of the same as the legatee may think proper, during his lifetime; a bequest over, of what shall happen not to have been appropriated, may be well limited (1): though, it is obvious, that the consequence pointed out by the authority before cited, may attach upon such a limitation.

Some

434; Bland v. Bland, 2 Cox,

320; Pushman v. Filliter, 3

Ves. 9; Bradley v. Westcott,

13 Ves. 451.

(k) Ross v. Ross, 1 Jac. & Walk. 158.

(1) Surman v. Surman, 5 Mad. 124.

⁽i) Eade v. Eade, 5 Mad. 121; Curtis v. Rippon, 5 Mad.

^{355;} Bull v. Kingston, 1 Mer.

Some Judges have held, that, where a limited Articles which use of "live and dead stock," or similar articles, is their very use; given, with remainder over, the articles must be sold; and, that, the person entitled to the limited use is to have only the interest of the money: but, Lord Alvanley thought this too rigid a construction (m). In these cases, the use of the property must, generally, be much more beneficial to the first taker, than the interest of the sum produced by their sale. Unless, however, the words of be- not included, quest clearly embrace property of that description; without express words, when a it will be thought the most natural construction, is given to the that, the testator did not intend to include articles first taker: which are consumed by their very use, when he has limited the interest of the first taker to a life estate (n): since, in point of fact, it would be since a gift for scarcely possible to say, that, a specific gift, for ticles, almost life, of articles the use of which consists in the amounts to a gift of the property. consumption, is not a gift of the property; for the use and the property can have no separate existence. There can be no secure limitation over. after a life interest in such articles (o).

are consumed by

Where a father has covenanted to make an equal division, at his death, of all the property he should absolute disposidie possessed of, between his two daughters; tion in his lifethough he retains a free power of disposition during his life, by expenditure even the most improvident, or by gift, if absolute,—against which a natural regard for his own interest would afford some

retain a power of

⁽m) Porter v. Tournay, 8 (o) Rundall v. Russell, 3 Ves. 314. Meriv. 194.

⁽n) S. C. p. 313.

as to be unable to distribution which is, in sub-

yet be tied up so some security (p); yet, he will not be allowed to make an unequal defeat his covenant, and make an unequal division, distribution amongst his chil- by any distribution which is, in effect, though not dren, by any act in form, testamentary: as, where he makes a restance, testament- versionary gift to one of the daughters, by an irrevocable instrument, reserving a life interest to himself(a).

A simple gift to the wife is a gift to the husband:

wife.

In Equity, as at Law, a gift to the wife is a gift to the husband; who, being bound to maintain the wife, is entitled to her property. A Court of but Equity will Equity will, however, execute a trust for the sole execute a plainly declared trust for and separate use of the wife, when the intention the sole and separate use of the donor to that effect is unequivocally declared; but, a gift to the wife for her use is no declaration of such an intention (r): and it is difficult to find any substantial distinction between a gift to a wife for her use, and a gift for her own use (s). But, the word "sole" is an emphatic and operative word in a will; a bequest, therefore, to the sole use of the wife will be tantamount to a bequest for her separate use (t): so, a legacy direct-

> (p) Lewis v. Maddocks, 17 Ves. 50; Jones v. Martin. 5 Ves. 266, note.

- (q) Fortescue v. Hennah, 19 Ves. 71.
- (r) Wills v. Sayers, 4 Mad.
- (s) Roberts v. Spicer, 5 Mad. 492; there is, indeed, a case of Jones v. ——, (cited, arguendo, in Lumb v. Milnes, 5 Ves. 520,) in which, according to the report, a different deci-

sion was made; (and that report was considered as good authority in Adamson v. Armitage, 19 Ves. 419;) but, Mr. Belt, by an examination of Reg. Lib. has shewn, that, the legacy in that case was held not to pass a separate estate to the wife. See note to Lee v. Pricaux, 3 Br. 383, Belt's edit.

ed

(t) Ex parte Ray, 1 Mad. 207.

ed to be paid into the proper hands of a married woman, and that her receipt should be a sufficient discharge for the same, is a trust for her separate use (u). In one case, according to the report in Atkins, it was held, that, a devise to the husband "livelihood" of for the "livelihood" of the wife, would convert the his wife, does not convert the hushusband into a trustee for her separate use(x): band into a trustee. but, Lord Alvanley, after an examination of the register's book, declared the decision and the report of that case to be directly at variance; the report, therefore, is of no authority (y). Technical words. however, are not necessary, even in a deed of settle- words, nowever, are not necessary, ment(z), and, a fortiori, not in a will, to secure pro- when a bequest appears, unequiperty to a married woman's separate use; a Court vocally, intended of Equity will raise a trust to that effect, when-woman's separate ever it can unequivocally discover such to have been the intention of the testator: thus, where a specific bequest is made to the wife, to be delivered up to her when she should demand or require the same; as the husband could not obtain the legacy from the executors, but a demand by the wife is made necessary, this gives her such a dominion over it, as is held to afford an inference, that, the testator intended it for her separate use (a).

husband for the

words, however, for a married

A bequest to the separate use of a married woman, unaccompanied by any qualifying restrictions, separate use, carmust, in Equity, carry with it the jus disponendi, ries with it the jus disponendi:

A bequest to a married woman's

(y) Lee v. Prieaux, 3 Br.

⁽u) Hartley v. Hurle, 5 Ves. 545. (z) Tyrrell v. Hope, 2 Atk. (x) Darley v. Darley, 3 Atk. 399. (a) Dixon v. Olmius, 2 Con,

unless the context shews that no such power was intended to be given.

as a necessary incident of property (b). But, there are many cases in which the question has been, whether the absolute property, including a power of disposition, was intended to be given; or, whether it was a personal gift only, without a power of disposition; and where a Court of Equity has seen, from the words of the will, an intention to limit the wife to a personal gift, without a power of disposition, the Court has said, this condition might be imposed, and an interest inconsistent with it should not take effect (c). And where it is expressly stipulated, that, the rents and interest of property shall be paid to the separate use of the wife; if this stipulation be accompanied with a provision, that, in the event of the wife's surviving, the property should be absolutely her's, the provision will imply an exclusion of a power so to appoint it during the coverture, as that it shall no,, in such event, belong to her (d). This is a restricprotection to her; tioh upon a feme covertes free power of disposion the same printion, more likely, in the majority of instances, to ciple as a restraint afford her a beneficial protection, than to prejudice her; and proceeds upon the same principle as the cases which, after considerable struggle, have established, that, a wife's power of alienating property, given in trust for her separate use, may be modified; by a clause in restraint of anticipa-

The wife's power may be restrained, during coverture only:

this restriction may be merely a of her power of alienation by anticipation;

> (b) Essex v. Atkins, 14 Ves. 547; Parkes v. White, 11 Ves. 221; Pybus v. Smith, 1 Ves. Junr. 194; Fettiplace Georges, 1 Ves. Junr. 49; Tappenden v. Walsh, 1 Phillim.

353: see, ante, p. 267.

tion.

⁽c) Wagstaff v. Smith, 9 Ves. 524.

⁽d) Lee v. Muggeridge, 1 Ves. &. Bea. 123.

tion (e). So, where a feme coverte is empowered or, by any other to dispose of property, (settled, or given by will, than a revocable for her separate use for her life,) by her last will and testament in writing: it is only by such a revocable instrument that she can exercise her power: an attempt to bind herself to a conclusive disposition by deed will be ineffectual (f).

A devise to a married woman, and to all and every the child or children of her body lawfully is- devise may be construed to give suing, and unto his, her and their heirs or assigns a life estate to a married woman, for ever as tenants in common; if the construc- and a fee in retion be not controlled by other parts of the will, children; instead may be construed to import a life estate to the latter to take as mother, and a remainder in fee to the children. joint-tenants with her, immediately. In such a case, it has been considered, that, there are two gifts, one to the mother, without words of limitation superadded; and another to her children, their heirs and assigns: and, that, these latter words of limitation do not comprehend, and are inapplicable to, the mother (g). An analogous construction would be made with respect to a bequest of personalty to a woman and her children. if it appeared by the will, that, they were intended to take as her representatives; not as joint-tenants with her (1).

What words of mainder to her

Where a testator has given a certain sum; as a Asum given by debt will in discharge

(e) Jackson v. Hobhouse, 2 Meriv. 487; Brandon v. Robinson, 18 Ves. 434; Ritchie v. Broadbent, 2 Jac. & Walk. 458; Mores v. Huish, 5 Ves.

(f) Sockett v. Wray, 4 Br.

486; and see Pybus v. Smith, ubi suprà.

- (g) Jefferey v. Honeywood, 4 Mad. 403.
- (h) Crawford v. Trotter, 4 Mad. 362.

though the amount of the

of a debt, is good, debt due to the person to whom he gives it: the circumstance that he has mistaken the amount of debt be mistaken: the debt. and that, in fact, he does not owe to that person so much as he has given, will not invalidate the bequest (i). And not only where the act is one which, in part, is no more than simple justice; but, also where the bequest is altogether one of mere bounty, the rule, adopted, (as we have seen,) from the civil Law, which declares falsa demonstratione legatum non perimi, will prevail (k). for Equity favors fortiori, therefore, a Court of Equity will never

the payment of aid a construction of a will which would go to dejust debts: fraud creditors of payment of their just debts.

Where there is a mere direction to the executors to pay the testator's debts, without giving them any other fund than the personal estate, out of in order to effect which they can fulfil that duty; the Court, if the

which, assets will be marshalled:

tion for payment of debts, will override every other disposition of real estate, as well as the claims

of the whole of the debts, would, even though the bill was not specially framed for that purpose, marshal the assets, and throw all specialty debts a general direc- upon the real estate (1). And, where there are not any debts which in their nature give a lien upon real estate, there is no case, in which a testator has prefaced his will by a general direction of the heir at law. for payment of his debts, where Courts of Equity have not held, that, the whole real estate, whether specifically devised or not, shall, if necessary, be applied

personal estate were insufficient for the discharge

⁽i) Whitfield v. Clement, 1 Meriv. 404.

⁽k) Williams v. Williams, 2 Br. 87; Milner v. Milner, 1 Ves. Senr. 107.

⁽¹⁾ Keeling v. Brown, 5 Ves. 361; Gibbs v. Ougier, 12 Ves. 416; Powell v. Robins, 7 Ves. 211; Saunderson v. Wharton, 8 Price, 682: post, p. 383.

applied to this honest purpose. On a different construction, the direction in the will would be nugatory; the testator could not help paying his debts out of his personal estate: if, therefore, a testator, in any part of his will, manifest an intention that his debts shall be paid, they are to be paid before any appropriation of what he has power to give; and will ride over every other disposition; and this as against either his heir at law or devisee (m).

There is, however, this distinction in the cases between debts and legacies. As to the former, spect to legacies, there must be a the Courts have gone upon moral principle, and clear intention to charge the payhave held slight indications of an intent to do ment thereof what is obviously just, sufficient. But, with respect to legacies mere implication is not sufficient; there must be a clear, manifest intention, that, the devisee should take subject to the legacies, to charge real estate therewith: the two cases, it is plain, are perfectly different, the act of the testator in one instance being purely voluntary; in the other obligatory (n). Yet, even with respect to Though, where legacies, where a testator, after declaring his in- the descent is broken, or the tention to dispose of all his worldly estate, first estate is subjected to a charge, gives several pecuniary legacies, and several an-making it equitnuities for lives, to be paid by his executor, and cies must be held then devises all the rest and residue of his goods a charge upon the real estate, if the and chattels, and estate, to his heir at law, and personalty prove deficient. makes him sole executor; the lands will pass to

But with reupon real estate.

able assets, lcga-

⁽m) Shallcross v. Finden, 3 Ves. 739; Trotter v. Vernon, Prec. in Cha. 489.

⁽n) Kightley v. Kightley, 2

Ves. Junr. 330; Shallcross v. Finden, 3 Ves. 739; Keeling v. Brown, 5 Ves. 362; Bootle v. Blundell, 1 Meriv. 233.

the executor as such, and he will be held to take by the will, and not by descent;—(though, had he entered as heir, the legatees would have been equally entitled to relief (o); for, whether the descent be broken, or not, a charge upon real estate makes it equitable assets (p):)—and the lands so devised will be chargeable with the pecuniary legacies and annuities, if the personal estate prove insufficient to satisfy the same (q): for, where a testator gives all his real and personal estate to one for life, blending the whole together as one fund: and, after the death of the first object of his bounty, gives certain pecuniary legacies; and then, the rest, residue, and remainder of his real and parsonal estate to another; the plain intent of the testator must have been, that, the legacies should be paid; and a Court of Equity will support that intent, by making the real estate, if wanted, liable to the payment (r).

It is only against a residuary legaestate must be incumbrances, out of the personalty.

The equity of parties entitled to real estate. by tee, that, the real descent or devise, to have the innumbrance upon except must be excepted from it discharged out of the personal estate, subsists only between the heir or devisee and the residuary legates (s): it cannot interfere with the disposition of specific (t), or even general (u), legacies:

much

- (o) Culpepper v. Aston, 2 Cha. Ca. 117; Luthins v. Leigh, Ca. temp. Talb. 54.
- (p) Bailey v. Ekins, 7 Ves. 393; Shiphard v. Lutwidge, 8 Ves. 30; Clay v. Willis, 1 Barn. & Cressw. 372.
- (q) Awbrey v. Middleton, 2 Eq. Ca. Ab. 497.
- (r) Bench v. Biles, 4 Mad. 188.
- (s) Hamilton v. Worley, 2 Ves. Junr. 65.
- (t) Tipping v. Tipping, 1 P. Wms. 730; O'Neal v. Meade, 1 P. Wms. 694.
 - (u) Hamilton v. Worley, whi

much less, as we have seen, with the claims of ere-And further, as against real estate descended, if specialty creditors of the ancestor exhaust his personal estate, his legatees may stand in alty, his legatees their place, and come upon the real estate: and the real estate, they will have the same equity as against a residu- against the heir, ary devisee; for, ex vi termini, he was only intend- or residuary devisee. ed to take the rest and residue, after all just claims satisfied. But, in any other case, it must be understood to have been equally the intention of the testator, that, his devisee should have his land, as that his legatee should take his personalty; and although the personal estate should be exhausted by the debts of specialty creditors, the legatee has no remedy over, against the devised estate (y): unless the debts were secured by mortgage on the very estate devised (a). Subject to these qualifications, however, no principle is better estab- is the primary fund for payment lished than, that, the personal estate, without spe- of debts and legacies: cial directions, is, the primary fund for payment of debts and legacies; it is not enough to shew that the real estate is charged therewith, but it must be satisfactorily shewn, that, the personal estate is discharged (a): still, where such an inten-

If apecialty creditors exhaust a may come upon

Personal estate is the primary

tion

suprà; Davis v. Gardiner, 2 P. Wms. 190; Rider v. Wager, 2 P. Wms. 335.

- (x) Lutkins v. Leigh, Ca. temp. Talb. 54: ante, p. 380.
- (y) Hanby v. Roberts, Ambl. 129; Long v. Short, 1 P. Wms. 404; Haslewood v. Pope, 3 P. Wms. 323; Herne v. Meyrick, 1 P. Wms. 202; Clifton v.

Burt, 2 P. Wms. 679.

- (z) Forrester v. Lord Leigh, Ambl. 174; O'Neal v. Meade, 1 P. Wms. 694; Lutkins v. Leigh, Ca. temp. Talb. 55.
- (a) Tower v. Lord Rous, 18 Ves. 138; Bootle v. Blundell, 19 Ves. 548; Watson v. Brickwood, 9 Ves. 454.

Estates descended, the secondary fund; and estates devised, subject to a only.

tion is plainly made out, it will prevail (b). though a testator may have expressly directed, that, his personal estate (the primary fund) shall charge, auxiliary not be applied in payment of his debts; it cannot thence be argued, that, estates which he has left to descend (and which, when particular lands have not been devised for that special object, are the secondary fund (c),) shall not be applicable to payment of the debts, before estates devised, subject to a charge only for that purpose (d). case, the devised estate will be considered as auxiliary only; unless the descended estate be expressly exonerated (e).

Legatees must abate equally in case of a deficiency of assets, unless an intendclearly express ed: which will not be inferred from slight circumstances:

In case of a deficiency of a testator's assets, it is matter of obvious fairness, that, all his legatees should abate equally: unless a preference of any ed preference be be distinctly expressed in the will, and the legacies to others are made payable only in case there should be a surplus, after full satisfaction of the bequests to the favored legatees (f). Such a preference is not to be inferred from a direction, that, certain legacies should be paid "in the first place;" this, or any similar expression, only marks the order in which it occurred to the testator to name the objects of his bounty, or to give directions to his executors. Nor will the fact, that, different

⁽b) Greene v. Greene, 4 Mad. 157; Burton v. Knowlton, 3 Ves. 108.

⁽c) Harmood v. Oglander, 8 Ves. 125; Manning v. Spooner. 3 Ves. 117.

⁽d) Milnes v. Slater, 8 Ves.

^{306;} Davies v. Topp, 1 Br. 526; Galton v. Hancock, 2 Atk. 431.

⁽e) Barnewell v. Lord Cawdor, 3 Mad. 456.

⁽f) Marsh v. Evans, 1 P. Wms. 668.

different periods are appointed for payment, exempt those first payable from abatement, if the assets shall subsequently be found insufficient for satisfaction of the whole. The prima facie presumption must always be, that, a testator considered he had property sufficient to answer all the legacies by him given, and, that, he intended all should be paid equally, in their order (g). where a testator has given a portion, in general be entitled to pri. terms, and also a legacy, which he has directed to ority over a general legacy. be paid out of a certain fund; the latter gift is such a demonstrative legacy as will be entitled to priority of payment; and, if the funds fall short for satisfying both demands, the deficiency must fall exclusively on the portion (h). It is evident. that, when a testator's assets are not ample, it may claims a lapsed be most important to ascertain whether a person legacy by substitution, or as resican claim a lapsed legacy by substitution, or only duary legatee. as residuary legatee; since, in the former case, he would be on the same footing as the other legatees, and entitled to such proportionable dividend as the estate may afford, after payment of preferable charges; whilst, in the latter case, he could have no benefit but in the event of a surplus after full satisfaction of the other legacies (i).

But, but a demonstra-

Distinction: whether a person

Where the owner of an estate has, himself, subjected his real estate to a mortgage debt, and dies; which the several funds of a deceas-

The order in his

(g) Beeston v. Booth, 4 Mad. 168; Clark v. Sewell, 3 Atk. 99; Lewin v. Lewin, 2 Ves. Senr. 417; Blower v. Morritt, 3 Ves. Senr. 421.

(h) Acton v. Acton, 1 Meriv.

179. (i) Rose v. Rose, 17 Ves. 351; Fonnereau v. Poyntz, 1 Br. 477; Humphreys v. Humphreys, 2 Cox, 186. And see, ante, p. 326.

ed mortgagor must be applied in discharge of the mortgage debt:

his personal estate is first applicable to the discharge of his covenant for payment of that debt (k); and the case would be the same even although there were no covenant, if the mortgagor receiv-, ed the money (l). If the personal estate prove deficient, real estate, devised, subject to the mortgagor's debts, must be applied to the discharge of the mortgage (m): and, where a testator, after a general direction that all his debts shall be paid, leaves real estates to descend, these, if required, must be applied in exoneration of the mortgaged estate (n). So, if the owner of a mortgaged and also of an unincumbered estate, devise each specifically, after subjecting his real estate generally to payment of his dehts; it seems, the devisee of the mortgaged estate may come upon the devisee of the unincumbered estate for contribution, (proportioned to the respective value of the two the rule not af- estates,) towards paying off the mortgage (o). The mere fact of devising a mortgaged estate "subestates were de- ject to the incumbrances thereupon," (but without expressly exonerating other funds from liability in respect thereof.) will not affect a question of this kind; these words convey no more than would be implied if they had not been used; the testator could not declare the incumbrances to be no lien (p). The

fected by the mere fact, that, the mortgaged vised, "subject to the incumbrances thereon:"

(k) Robinson v. Gee, 1 Ves.

Senr. 252.

Br. 240.

⁽¹⁾ King v. King, 3 P. Wms. 360; Cope v. Cope, 2 Salk.449.

⁽m) Bartholomew v. May, 1 Atk. 487; Marchioness of Tweedale v. Earl of Coventry, 1

⁽n) Wride v. Clark, 2 Br. 260, note; Powis v. Corbet, 8 Atk. 556.

⁽o) Carter v. Barnardiston, 1 P. Wms. 505.

⁽p) Serle v. St. Eloy, 2 P.

The rule above laid down, however, has no application where the mortgage debt was not origin-tracted by the tesally contracted by the testator (q); for this would tator, it will remain a charge be to make the personal estate of one man answer- upon the mortable for the debt of another. But, any one, of unless he took it course, may make himself personally responsible contract with the for a debt contracted by another; and though where a man buys an estate subject to a mortgage, but enters into no contract, or communication, with the mortgagee; and does no other act to shew an intention to transfer that debt from the estate to himself, as between his heir and executor; but merely indemnifies the vendor against the mortgage debt, which he must do if he pays a less price in consequence of that incumbrance; he does not. by that act, take the debt upon himself personally (r): still, where the purchaser of an equity of redemption directly contracts with the mortgagee. who joins in the conveyance; that transaction will have the effect of constituting a new debt from the purchaser, to which his personal estate will be liable (s).

On the other hand, where an incumbrance is in its nature real, or where it has been dealt with as fixed on the realsuch, by a person having power to fix the incum-

But, where the debt was not congaged estate, upon himself by

brance may be

brance

Wms. 386; Bootle v. Blundell, 19 Ves. 528.

(q) Evelyn v. Evelyn, 2 P. Wms. 664; Earl of Tankerville v. Fancett, 1 Cox, 239; Basset v. Percival, 1 Cox, 270; Parsons v. Freeman, Amb. 115: see, also, Earl of Buckinghamshire v. Hobart, 3 Swanst. 201.

(r) Tweddell v. Tweddell, 2 Br. 154; Waring v. Ward, 7 Ves. 836; Butler v. Butler, 5 Ves. 538.

(s) Earl of Oxford v. Lady Rodney, 14 Ves. 425; Waring v. Ward, 7 Ves. 338, 340; Billinghurst v. Walker, 2 Br. 608.

brance on the realty alone; there, the land may

be made the pricerned.

be primarily liable to the debt(t): or, an entire end may be put to the personal claim, by the nature of the arrangements between the parties (u). or, the land may And even where the land was auxiliary only to mary fund, as far the personal estate of the party who originally as a surety is con- contracted the debt; yet, with respect to any other party who enters into a personal covenant, as an additional security for the satisfaction of the creditor, that covenant may be so framed as to alter the nature of the debt, as far as the surety is concerned; and, as to him, to constitute the land the primary fund (x). Thus, in case of a mortgage, or any other incumbrance upon lands arising out of borrowing and lending, the real estate is considered only as a pledge; and the personal estate of the borrower, which is the natural fund, is liable in Where money the first place; yet, this rule has not been carried so far as to extend it to cases of marriage settlewhere separate estate, and at the ments (y), under certain circumstances; for instance, where money has been borrowed upon mortgage of a wife's separate estate, and at the have given bond same time a settlement has been made upon the yet, as between wife, (whether such transaction take place before or after the marriage of the parties.) there is no alone is liable to instance in which the husband has been considered

is borrowed upon mortgage of a wife's separate same time a settlement is made on her; though the husband may themselves, the the debt:

> (t) Dowager Countess of Coventry v. Earl of Coventry, 2 P. Wms. 225, 238; and S. C. very fully given at the end of Francis's Maxims, appended to 2 Fonbl. Tr. on Eq. see pp. 79, 82, 86, 90; Clinton v. Hooper, 1 Ves. Junr. 186; Lech-

mere v. Charlton, 15 Ves. 198;

(u) Hamilton v. Worley, 2 Ves. Junr. 65.

answerable

- (x) Bagot v. Oughton, 1 P. Wms. 348.
- (y) Lanoy v. Duke of Athol, 2 Atk. 445.

answerable to the wife's estate for the money bor-As between them, and their heirs and representatives, it will make no difference that the husband gave bond for payment of the money and performance of the covenants: and that the creditor might have sued him on such bond: had that been the case, a Court of Equity would have given him relief over, and decreed him to be repaid out of the wife's estate. And, it rather seems, that, it it would be will be of no avail to shew, that, part of the money, thement formed so borrowed, was applied to the husband's private no part of the transaction. use; for, by the settlement, he was a purchaser thereof (x). But, where a settlement forms no part of the same transaction, and it is merely (in whatever shape) a loan from the wife to the husband; there, although the wife may charge her separate estate for her husband's debt; she will be a creditor as against his estate for any sum she may be called upon to pay in respect of that engagement(a).

We have seen, that, a devise subject to payments of the testator's debts will not exonerate his per- rection to apply a particular porsonal estate; it shews nothing more than an in-tion of real estate, tention, that, all his debts should be paid, and that, a particular debt. if necessary, his real estate should be applicable to this purpose. But, a direction to apply a particular portion of the real estate, for the payment of one particular debt, affords a very different inference.

Effect of a dito the payment of

(z) Lewis v. Nangle, Ambl. 150; S. C. 2 Cox, 240; Jackson v. Innes, 1 Bligh, 122; Clinton v. Hooper, 3 Br. 211; Ruscombe v. Hare, 6 Dow, 10, 19: see, however, Earl of Kinnoul v. Murray, 3 Swanst. 208, 216, note.

(a) Parteriche v. Powlet, 2 Atk. 384; Tate v. Austin, 1 P. Wms. 265.

whom a larsed legacy devolves, cannot claim an exoneration, intended only in favor of the legatee.

The person on ference (b). And it is to be observed, as a qualification of some of the positions before laid down, that, although a bequest may have been given exonerated from incumbrances; (to which, without special directions in the will, it would, in the first place, have been liable,) should the bequest lapse, the personal representative will not be entitled to the benefit of that exoneration, which was intended only in favor of the individual legatee (c).

A mere direction that a testator's debts should ecutors, will not charge his real estate.

When all a testator's real estate is specifically devised, a mere direction in his will, that, all his be paid by his ex- debts shall be paid by his executors, will not have the effect of charging his real estate; with which his executors, as such, have nothing to do: it would be otherwise if the executors were also the devisees, so that they had the means of paying the debts out of the real estate (d).

A direction that of " rents and profits" of real estates, may pass the land itself.

When a testator, after directing certain charges certain charges shall be paid out to be paid out of the "rents and profits" of his real estates, has fixed a particular time within which that purpose is to be carried into effect; if the rents and profits, in the ordinary sense of those words, would be insufficient for the end required, Courts of Equity have held, that, these words, in a will, may pass the land itself (e), where there is nothing

- (b) Hancox v. Abbey, 11 Ves. 186; Spurway v. Glyn, 9 Ves. 485; Maugham v. Mason, 1 Ves. & Bea. 413.
- (c) Hale v. Cox, 3 Br. 324; Waring v. Ward, 5 Ves. 675; Noel v. Lord Henley, 7 Price, 259: see, ante, p. 282.
- (d) Ponell v. Robins, 7 Ves. 211; Keeling v. Brown, 5 Ves. 361; Bridges v. Landen, cited, 3 Ves. 550; Barker v. Duke of Devonshire, 3 Meriv. 312.
- (e) Allan v. Backhouse, 2 Ves. & Bea. 75; Baines v. Dixon, 1 Ves. Senr. 42; John-

nothing in the will to exclude that construction. . But, of course, where there are other words explaining or restraining the testator's meaning; as, for instance, where he gives a leasing power, no such construction can be made; for the power to lease would be frivolous, if a sale (which would include every thing) were intended (f). The same reasoning would, even more forcibly, apply, if a power of mortgaging were given (g). vise of real estate, professedly for the payment of debts, if given in a manner which would not answer that purpose, could only be looked upon as a scheme for taking the case out of the statute against fraudulent devises (h). If a portion be secured by a trust term, with a direction that it shall to be raised out of be raised by "rents and profits," and no time is the "rents and profits" of a trust limited for payment; the money cannot be raised term, may be raised by sale or by sale or mortgage (i): but, if the trust term be mortgage. created, not merely for the purpose of raising a portion, but, for the payment of debts also; and the testator provides, in the same clause, for the payment of both, together; the natural inference is, that, he intends both shall be paid in the same way; and as, for payment of debts, the term, if necessary, may be sold or mortgaged, the party for whom

In what case a

son v. Arnold, 1 Ves. Senr. 171; Trafford v. Ashton, 1 P. Wms. 418; Bootle v. Blumdell, 1 Meriv. 233. See, ante. p. 293.

(f) log v. Gilbert, 2 P. Wms. 19; Mills v. Banks, 3 P. Wms. 7.

- (g) Ridout v. Lord Plymouth, 2 Atk. 105.
- (h) Hughes v. Doulben, 2 Ves. 614.
- (i) Evelyn v. Evelyn, 2 P. Wms. 666; Okeden v. Okeden, 1 Atk. 550: Sheldon v. Dormer, 2 Vern. 310.

whom the portion is intended will participate in the benefit of that equity (k).

The intention, not the use of any technical words, is to determine whether a condior subsequent.

ditions subse-

of marriage;

and the, seemingly, contrary rule precedent, annexed even to personal legacies.

There are no technical words to distinguish conditions precedent and subsequent, in a will; but the same words may, indifferently, constitute tion be precedent either; according to the intention of the person Rules as to con- who creates the condition (1). Where a legacy is quent in restraint given, to which a condition subsequent, in restraint of marriage, is annexed; the condition is void. and merely in terrorem (m): unless there be also a valid bequest over of the particular legacy; or. at least, (it should seem), unless the will contain an express direction, that, such legacy, if the condition annexed thereto be not complied with, should sink into the residue of the testator's property (n). Whether the same rule holds good, with respect as to conditions to personal legacies, where the condition is precedent, is a question on which great diversity of opinion has existed (o). The preponderance of authority, however, seems to establish, that, even as to strictly personal legacies, where the condition is confined within reasonable limits as to time (p), and does not go in entire restraint of marriage; and, also, where it is framed only to

guard

- (k) Bootle v. Blundell, 1 Meriv. 233.
- (1) Robinson v. Comyns, Ca. temp. Talb. 165.
- (m) Reynish v. Martin, 3 Atk. 332; Hicks v. Pendarvis, 2 Freem. 41.
 - (n) See, infrà, p. 397.
- (o) Lloyd v. Branton, 3 Mer. 117; Wheeler v. Bingham, 1
- Wils. 136; Scott v. Tyler, 2 Dick. 720; S. C. 2 Br. 462; Stackpoole v. Beaumont, 3 Ves. 96; Hervey v. Aston, Willes, 95; Clarke v. Parker, 19 Ves.
- (p) Scott v. Tyler, 2 Dick. 723; Graydon v. Hicks, 2 Atk. 16; Stackpoole v. Beaumont, 3 Ves. 98.

guard against a connexion with a particular individual (q), or family, which the testator deems objectionable; in all such cases, the condition must be complied with, or the legacy (though not given over) can never vest: or, at least, not be paya-But, a condition in restraint of marriage, excluding a whole profession or calling, would be which would, virtually, go alvoid (s): and so, it seems, would a condition re-most to the entire exclusion of marstraining marriage with any other than a person riage, are void. possessed of an unincumbered real estate of such an amount as would imply a virtual exclusion of most professions (t): for this would be an evasion of that policy which was, perhaps wisely, enforced by the civil Law; in part adopted by our Law, and still retained; though it has been shewn (u), by cogent arguments and induction of facts, that, such policy is of very doubtful application to the present state of our country.

Interests arising out of land must, clearly, be governed by the rules of common Law (x): there-realty, if coupled fore, devises of land, charges upon it, powers to be with a condition, must be executed exercised over it, money to be laid out in lands, with analogy to the common law; and all similar gifts savouring of realty; if coup-thus, portions led with a condition, must be executed with ana-cannot vest belogy to the common Law (y). Lord Hardwicke payment comes; declared, that, he held nothing more fixed, since which will not be until the con-

All gifts savouring of the charged on lands fore the time of the dition is performed:

⁽q) Jervoise v. Duke, 1 Vern.

⁽r) Elton v. Elton, 1 Ves. Senr. 6; Knight v. Cameron, 14 Ves. 392.

⁽s) 1 Equ. Ca. Ab. in margin.

⁽t) Keily v. Monck, 3 Ridgw. P. C. 263.

^{. (}u) See Malthus on Population, passim.

⁽x) Co. Litt. 206.

⁽y) Scott v. Tyler, 2 Dick. 719.

the case of Paulet v. Paulet (z), than that, portions

charged on lands will not vest till the time of payment comes, and if that time, according to the will, be not until a marriage with consent, his Lordship said, there was no rule, in Law or Equity, which could excuse the want of such consent. In the same judgment, it was also intimated, that, it was unimportant whether there was, or was not, a devise over: for, being portions to arise out of lands. they had nothing testamentary in them, so as to be subject to the jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts, or the rules of the civil Law. It was not to be raised, added, that, a material difference existed between receive them die portions out of lands and personal legacies, in this respect, (amongst others,) namely, that, in the first case, if the party die before they become payable, they shall not be raised (a); in the latter, the legacy, if vested, will go to the executor; the ground of this distinction being, that, Courts of Equity, for uniformity of decision in pari materia, follow the Ecclesiastical Courts in the one case, and the common Law in the other (b). Lord Rosslyn seemed disposed to deny.-not, indeed, the fact of the exout of personalty, isting distinction pointed out by Lord Hardwicke, is made with re-but—that there was any ground for a distinction, spect to legacies in the construction of legacies, whether such legacies were given out of personal, or out of real, estate. His Lordship held, that, the construction

So, portions out of lands are if the parties to before the portions are payable.

The different construction as to legacies given from that which charged upon real estate; as well as the distinction between conditions prece-

Reynish v. Martin, 3 Atk. 333; Pullen v. Ready, 2 Atk. 590; Sheriff v. Mortlock, W. Kelynge, 24.

ought

⁽a) 2 Freem. 93.

⁽a) Pearce v. Loman, 3 Ves. 138.

⁽b) Harvey v. Aston, 1 Atk. 378, 379; S. C. Willes, 91;

ought to be precisely the same, in both cases (c); dent and subseand professed to see no more real importance in disapproved, but the distinction between conditions precedent and is firmly estabsubsequent: but, though he held these distinctions to have arisen only from an attempt to escape the difficulty entailed by a blind superstitious adherence, on the part of the Ecclesiastical Courts, to the text of the civil Law, (adopted without seeing how inapplicable it was to a country, in this instance, under totally different circumstances (d), his Lordship was not called upon, by the facts of the case then before him, to make a decree repudiating these distinctions, judicially; as the question arose out of a condition precedent, and imposing no restraint on marriage after the legatee should attain her age of twenty-one years; before which, by the general Law of this country, marriage cannot be had without consent (e).

Whether the appointment of a residuary lega- Quære, whether tee amounts to a gift over of a legacy, given on a of a residuary lecondition which has not been fulfilled, is a ques-gate amounts to tion upon which the determinations have been at gacy given on a condition? variance. Mr. Justice Comyn, and Chief Justice Willes, in Harvey v. Aston (f), held, that, a general residuary bequest was a good devise over in such cases. And the same doctrine had, previously, been held in Amos v. Horner (g).

the appointment

The dicta are But, at variance:

Sir

⁽c) And see Lord Eldon's opinion in Clarke v. Parker, 19 Ves. 14.

⁽d) Pearce v. Loman, 3 Ves.

⁽e) Stackpoole v. Beaumont, 3 Ves. 95, 98.

⁽f) 1 Atk. 376, 377.

⁽g) 1 Eq. Ca. Ab. 112. See Willes, 96.

Examination of the cases on this subject:

Bellasie v. Ermine does not appear, by the records, ever to have received a final determination:

Sir Joseph Jekyl, M. R. thought differently (h): and in Keily v. Monck (i), it was said, somewhat too broadly, that, determinations to the contrary have been made in every instance in which the question has arisen. One of the three cases cited to support this sweeping assertion—the case of Garret v. Pritty (k),—it has been since satisfactorily shewn (1), could not have proceeded on the ground stated by the reporter. The second precedent cited—that of Bellasis v. Ermine—is not, in either of the published notes of that case (m), brought down lower than the hearing of a plea: and in neither of the reports is it stated whether there was, or was not, a residuary devise. important circumstance not being noticed, either way; the mere naked fact, that a plea was overruled, and the defendant ordered to put in an answer, can hardly be deemed an expression, by the Court which made that order, of a conclusive opinion on the main question. The present writer has, therefore, thought it his duty to search the records, and endeavour to ascertain the precise circumstances of the case: his search, however, has not been attended with complete success. examination has, indeed, enabled him to bear testimony to the accuracy of both the printed reports (n); and to vindicate them from the charge

(h) Hervey v. Aston, Ca. note thereto. temp. Talb. 214. (m) 2 Freez

(m) 2 Freem. 171; 1 Cha. Ca.

zz.

of

fol. 729.

⁽i) \$ Ridgw. P. C. 252.

⁽k) 2 Vern, 293.

⁽n) See Reg. Lib. 1662, A.

⁽¹⁾ See Lloyd v. Branton, 3 Mer. 119; and Mr. Merivale's

of omission, in not stating any final decision of the case; for none such is entered:—or, at least, whoever discovers the entry must be more industrious, or more fortunate, than the present writer; who bestowed some pains on the search. latest notice he could trace was, an order for an attachment, to compel the defendant to put in a better answer (o). But, by a previous entry of an but, as the quesinterlocutory order, (not material, for this purpose, was as to a porin any other respect,) it may be collected, that, the lands, the deciportion in question was charged on lands, given to sion (if any were made) must have trustees for the purpose of raising such portion been governed by the rules of comby a sale (p). This circumstance should seem to mon Law. bring the case within the reasoning (already stated,) of Lord Hardwicke in Hervey v. Aston, and in Reynish v. Martin; as well as of Lord Thurlow, in Scott v. Tuler: and suggests, that, the question must have been finally decided (if it was not compromised between the parties) by the rules of common Law. The authority of the third case, cited in support of the doctrine maintained in Keily v. Monck, depends, for this purpose, upon a negative inference, drawn from the omission by one of the reporters of that case, of a passage distinctly stated by the other. One report (q) of In Wheeler Bingham, this Wheeler v. Bingham is silent as to an observation, distinction was which, according to another report (r), fell from a mere residuary Lord Hardwicke; in which his Lordship made a bequest would not amount to a clear distinction between a mere general residuary devise over; but, bequest, and an express direction, that, if the le-tion, that, on non-

tion in that case tion charged on

an express direc-

gatee

⁽o) Reg. Lib. 1663, A. fol.

^{258.} (q) 1 Wils. 135. (p) Reg. Lib. 1662, A. fol. (r) 3 Atk. 368.

performance of the condition, the into the residuum, would have that effect.

gatee should not perform the condition, the legacy legacy should fall should fall into the residuum: such a direction. his Lordship held, would amount to a devise over. This distinction was rejected in Keily v. Monck, but recognized in more than one later case (s): and seems substantial. For, although it should be admitted. that, a direction for a legacy to go to the testator's executors, in case of the non-performance of a condition, is no more than the Law would imply (t); and therefore is not tantamount to a bequest over: still, the very decisions which have declared, that, a mere residuary clause was not a gift over, by consequence, decided, that, the legacy did not, by operation of Law, fall into the residue;—for if it did, the residuary legatee would, in each case, have been entitled to it (u). therefore, it be denied, that, a testator has it in his power, by any form of words, to give an interest to his residuary legatee, in such conditional legacies as may be forfeited; Lord Hardwicke's distinction can, with consistency, be held unimportant, only by those who think a mere general residuary bequest sufficient to carry such forfeited legacies; and not by those who maintain a contrary doctrine.

> It is not to be denied, that, upon this subject, there has been a contrariety of judicial opinion actually expressed; at the same time, it may be safely alleged, that, a great part of the obscurity as to the

⁽s) Lloyd v. Branton, 3 Mer.

⁽u) Lloyd v. Branton, ubi su-118; Malcolm v. O'Callaghan, 2 Mad. 350. prà.

⁽t) Cage v. Russel, 2 Ventr.

the doctrine which really preponderates, is referrible to the discrepancies between the several printed reports of the same judgments. Of this we have already seen one instance; another is easily produced. From the report of Scott v. Tyler, as given by Mr. Brown (x), several commentators, ler, it was neig, that, a mere ge-(to whose industrious researches the legal profes-neral residuary sion is much indebted,) have been led, in succes- conditional legasion, to a conclusion, that, Lord Thurlow had pronounced a distinct opinion, holding a mere general residuary devise to be tantamount to a devise over (y): from the note of the judgment in that case, however, as published from the manuscript of Mr. Dickens (x), it appears, Lord Thurlow considered it to have been, repeatedly and well, determined, that, a mere residuary bequest leaves a conditional legacy in statu quo; and has no other effect than that of preventing what proves not to be otherwise well disposed of from falling, by order of Law, to the executor or next of kin. This doctrine, coupled with that laid down by Lord laid down in Hardwicke in Wheeler v. Bingham (a), seems to Wheeler v. Bingham, seems to afford the rule most to be relied upon; and which afford the rule has, accordingly, been followed in the most mo- on. dern cases (b).

In Scott v. Tybequest leaves a cy in statu quo.

This doctrine. most to be relied

It is clear, that, a bill for a legacy, given on marriage, cannot be brought before any mar- always be considered a condi-

Marriage must

riage

(x) 2 Br. 431.

(y) See the conclusion of the last note to Hervey v. Aston, in Ca. temp. Talb. 217; the last note (also ad finem) to the same case in 1 Atk. 881; and the note to Jervoise v. Duke, 1

Vern. 20.

(z) 2 Dick. 723.

(a) 3 Atk. 368.

(b) Lloyd v. Branton, 3 Mer. 118; Malcolm v. O'Callaghan, 2 Mad. 350.

the vesting of a legacy given causk matrimomii.

Therefore, although a proviso retion precedent to riage had. quiring consent to marriage may be treated as if inserted only in terrorem, (where there is no devise over,) so far as to save the legatee from forfeiture, although he, or she, should marry without consent; still, the condition must at least be looked upon as appointing the time when the legacy shall become due; and marriage is a condition precedent to the vesting (c).

Even in the case of a strictly personal legacy, complied with.

It seems, that, where a parent, or any one in loco parentis, makes a provision for a child in the given alternative; namely, that, in case a condition pre-tively, Equity will not relieve, if cedent be complied with, the child shall have a condition be not larger portion; but, if the condition be not performed, a smaller; Equity will not relieve against the consequences of non-performance, even in the case of a strictly personal legacy, not charged on land, and where there is no devise over (d). Of course, the case would be stronger if there was no relationship between the parties.

In what case a legacy is discharged from a condition.

advantage of a bequest over, caused a breach

When a condition subsequent becomes impossible by the act of God, the interest of a legatee, or devisee, is discharged from the condition, and re-No one can take mains absolute (e). And, if the compliance with the condition be, in any way, prevented by the who has himself fraud of the party interested in the bequest over, of the condition. such party will not be allowed to take advantage

of

Wms. 284; Creagh v. Wilson, 2 Vern. 572.

⁽c) Garbut v. Hilton, 1 Atk. 381; Atkins v. Hitchcocks, 1 Atk. 502; Elton v. Elton, 3 Atk. 507; Parker v. Parker, 2 Freem. 58.

⁽d) Gillet v. Wray, 1 P.

⁽e) Peyton v. Bury, 2 P. Wms. 626; Aislabie v. Rice, 8 Taunt. 467.

of his own wrong (f). The case would be the same, it seems, where a person having a prospect of benefit from the forfeiture, has encouraged a breach of the condition; although no fraud be imputed (g). On the other hand, if the consent of Consent to marany individual to the marriage of a legatee has by deceit, may been made, by the testator, a condition precedent, necessary to vest the legacy; there, if such consent has been obtained through any deceit or fraud, it may, at any time before the marriage, be retracted(h).

riage, if obtained be retracted.

Where a marriage portion to a woman has been bequeathed in trust, on condition that a settlement spect to trustees impeding the shall be made upon her, previous to marriage; if strict performa settlement precisely in the terms of the will be tion; defeated by the neglect and mistake of the trustee, he will be compelled to pay the portion, upon an execution of the settlement after the marriage (i). It has even been determined, that, where one of or unreasonably several trustees has withheld his consent, for a vi- withhold to a cious or unreasonable cause, that should not affect marriage: the consent given by the majority, where it was reasonable they should consent (k). But this jurisdiction, which Courts of Equity have assumed, of determining whether consent can be implied

Rules with re-

withholding

- (f) Dashwood v. Lord Bulkeley, 10 Ves. 243; Garrett v. Pretty, as stated from Reg. Lib. 3 Meriv. 120; Clarke v. Parker, 19 Ves. 12.
- (g) D'Aguilar v. Drinkwater, 2 Ves. & Bea. 225: see the head of "Matters of Trust."
 - (h) Merry v. Ryves, 1 Eden,
- 6; Smith v. Huson, 1 Phillim. 300; Clarke v. Parker, 19 Ves.
- (i) O'Callaghan v. Cooper, 5 Ves. 122: see, also, Dashwood v. Lord Bulkeley, 10 Ves.
- (k) Clarke v. Parker, 19 Ves. 15.

ed (1), or whether it has, or has not, been reasonably withheld (m), has been pronounced to be very dangerous; since, if it is to be understood, that, a Court of Equity will inquire, whether the person

tees consent, that

to whom a discretion is given by the testator, and who meant to act honestly, has come to precisely the same determination which the Court would have made: this amounts to reading the will as reif the acting trus. quiring the consent of the Court (n). The authority to consent, in such cases, is annexed to the office of trustee: and, like other authorities annexed to that office, vests only in such trustees as act: if the acting trustees, therefore, give their consent to the marriage, that may be sufficient (o): or a reference may be obtained to a Master to inquire In what cases whether the match is a suitable one (p). A cona condition requiring the consent of executors to marsent of a testa-tor's executors to riage, will not be held applicable to the case of a a marriage, is dis. daughter of the testator's who married in his lifetime, with his consent, or subsequent approbation: the testator could only have meant to impose the condition with reference to a marriage after his death; that being the only marriage the propriety of which could be ascertained by the consent of

executors (q). Nor will such a condition apply to

a condition recharged.

is sufficient.

- (1) Worthington v. Evans, 1. Sim. & Stu. 172; Mesgrett v. Mesgrett, 2 Vern. 581.
- (m) Peyton v. Bury, 2 P. Wms. 628; Daley v. Desbouverie, 2 Atk. 264.
- (n) Clarke v. Parker, 19 Ves. 11.
- (o) Worthington v. Evans, 1 Sim. & Stu. 172.

a second

- (p) Goldsmid v. Goldsmid, 19 Ves. 372.
- (q) Parnell v. Lyon, 1 Ves. & Bea. 483; Clarke v. Berkeley, 2 Vern. 721.

a second marriage, if a daughter, once married with the testator's consent, become a widow (r).

It is a general rule, that, where there is a condition annexed by a will to a devise of real or rule, where no one is bound to personal estate, and no notice required to be given, give notice of a or no person bound to give notice; the parties parties to perform it must themmust themselves take notice, and perform the con-selves take nodition; if they do not, and there be a devise over, a forfeiture will be incurred (s). Infancy will not excuse the non-performance (t). But, the appli-but, where a concation of this general rule is subject to one restriction, where the party, upon whom the condition on the testator's heir at law, nois imposed as to a devise of real estate, is the tes-tice must be tator's heir at law: there, notice of the condition is necessary to work a forfeiture: for, the heir at law is supposed to enter and claim by descent, and not under the will (u).

As a general condition, the

If lands be devised to a stranger, on condition In what case the to pay another stranger a sum of money, but the be bound to enter will contains no clause of entry; this is not such for breach of condition, as trustee a charge on the estate as will give the legatee for a legatee: of the money a lien on the lands; but the heir at law will be bound to enter and take advantage of the breach of the condition, though he will, in Equity, be considered only a trustee for the legatee (x). And if the lands subject to such a condi-

And where, if tion the lands subject

- (r) Hutcheson v. Hammond, 3 Br. 145; Crommelin v. Crommelin, 3 Ves. 230.
- (s) Chauncy v. Graydon, 2 Atk. 619; Fry v. Porter, 1 Med. 314; Burgess v. Robinson, 3 Meriv. 9; Phillips v. Bury, Show. P. C. 50.
- (t) Bertie v. Lord Fulkland, 2 Freem. 221; Lady Ann Fry's case, 1 Ventr. 200.
- (u) Burleton v. Humfrey, Ambl. 259.
- (x) Wigg v. Wigg, 3 Atk. 383.

to a condition. fixing a pecuniary charge thereon, have devolved upon the heir at fixed with a trust for payment of the money.

tion descended, or were devised, to the heir at law: though he could not enter for the condition broken. (being actually in possession,) yet the lands will, in law, they will be his hands, be fixed with a trust for payment of the legacy; as they would in the hands of any purchaser from him, who had notice of the will; though the money might be lost, if he made a title, solely as heir at law to a boná fide purchaser without notice: and, therefore, if, in such case, the legacy be not payable till a future period, the heir may be decreed to give security (y).

Distinction between conditions, and conditional limitations.

A clear distinction must always be borne in mind, between conditions and conditional limita-A conditional limitation, though void by the common Law as to divesting an estate once vested, is permitted under the doctrine of uses, and of executory devises: it takes effect, not by enforcing a penalty, but, by the absolute determination of the previous limitation, without entry or claim by the devisee over (2). It must be further mit its being con-recollected, that, all Courts are disposed, as far as the rules of Law admit, to aid, by construction, the intention of a testator: if, therefore, in a will, there be no express limitation over, to take effect upon the breach of a proviso annexed to the preceding estate; although such proviso is so framed as to admit its being construed as a limitation, it may be considered as a condition, if that construction

A proviso so framed as to adsidered a limitation, may be construed as a condition:

> (y) S. C. Anonym. 2 Freem. 278; Smith v. Alterley, 2 Freem. 136.

> (z) Newis v. Lark, (or Scolastica's case,) Plowd. 412; Bo

raston's case, 3 Rep. 21, a; Rundale v. Eeley, Carter's Rep. temp. Bridgman, 171; Simpson v. Vickers, 14 Ves. 346.

tion will best answer the apparent intent of the testator (a): as, on the other hand, words of ap- and vice versa: parent condition may be controlled by the context; and either be understood as words of limitation (b): or, under peculiar circumstances, as raising a trust only (c): and a condition inconsistent with, and repugnant to, a previous gift, is void(d).

A repugnant condition is void.

The distinction is important, between a condition collateral to the land, and a condition for pay- collateral to land must be strictly ment of money by the devisee, to another object performed; of the testator's bounty. Where the condition is collateral, there non-compliance with such condition will induce an absolute forfeiture, if there be a limitation over; because there can be no recompence given for that: but, where the condition is a condition for only for payment of money, though the money be payment of money, may admit not paid at the day, yet, payment afterwards, with recompence for non-performinterest, is a satisfaction (e).

·A condition

In what cases will pass to resue, presentatives:

Where interests are so given by will as to vest immediately in the children of a family, though li- a vested legacy, given subject able to be divested by their all dying, without is- to being divested,

- (a) Gulliver v. Ashby, 4 Burr. 1943: and see Miles v. Leigh, 1 Atk. 574.
- (b) Murray v. Jones, 2 Ves. & Bea. 320, 322; Meadows v. Parry, 1 Ves. & Bea. 124; Pearsall v. Simpson, 15 Ves. 33; Lane v. Goudge, 9 Ves.
- (c) Taylor v. George, 2 Ves. & Bea. 381; Oke v. Heath, 1 Ves. Senr. 135: See the extract from Reg. Lib. in Mr.
- Belt's Supplement: which makes the case appear still stronger, as it seems the testator used words of express condition.
- (d) Bradley v. Peixoto, 3 Ves. 325; Britton v. Twining. 3 Meriv. 184.
- (e) Wheeler v. Whittall, 2 Freem. 10; Popham v. Bampfield, 1 Vern. 83; Barnardiston v. Fane, 2 Vern. 366; Bertie v. Lord Falkland, 2 Freem. 221.

a vested devise, subject to defea devisee to the profits, until the divested.

cumstance, that, the whole of a bequest is given over, will not, of shares thereof from vesting:

but, there may be no gift except for payment;

vision may be annexed to the very substance of the gift.

sue, under twenty-one years of age, or any similar contingency; if the specified contingency, upon which the interests given were to be divested, do not happen, those interests must continue vested: and the share of a child dying under twenty-one passes to its representative (f). And, where a subject to detea-sance, entitles the devise is absolute, and vested, though with a clause of defeasance; even if the contingency upon which estate is actually the estate is to be divested should happen, the devisee will be entitled to the rents and profits, up to that period, and such interest will be transmissible (g). A devise over of the entirety may, indeed, be called in aid of other circumstances to shew, that, no present interest was intended to The mere cir- pass (h): but it would be an untenable proposition to contend, that, the mere circumstance of the whole estate being given over, (whether such esitself, preventany tate be real or personal,) does, of itself, and without more, prevent any of the shares from vesting in the mean time (i). Undoubtedly, where there in the direction is no gift except in the direction for payment, and that direction for payment applies only to persons of a given age; no one who does not bring himself within that part of the description can claim or the time of dia vested, or transmissible, interest (k). ciple is the same, whenever the time of division is

- (f) Skey v. Barnes, 3 Mer. 340; Harrison v. Foreman, 5 Ves. 210; Sturgess v. Pearson, 4 Mad. 411; Smither v. Willock, 9 Ves. 234.
- (g) Shephard v. Ingram, Ambl. 450.
 - (h) Errington v. Chapman,
- 12 Ves. 24; Bromhead v. Hunt. 2 Jac. & Walk. 462.
- (i) Skey v. Barnes, ubi suprà; Stanley v. Stanley, 16 Ves. 506.
- (k) Sansbury v. Read, 12 Ves. 78; Errington v. Chapman, ubi suprà; Leake v. Robinson, 3 Meriv. 386.

annexed to the very substance of the gift; and it is not an independent gift, of which a subsequent time of payment is appointed merely for convenience (1). But, generally, a bequest "after the death" of a particular person, is held to denote, death" of annot a condition, that, the legatee shall survive such other, generally denotes, not a person, but, only to mark the time at which the condition, but legacy shall take effect in possession; that posses- when the legacy sion being only deferred on account of the life in-possession. terest given to the person on whose death the gift is to take full effect (m).

A bequest to only the time is to take effect in

Where a testator has devised his estates to his wife for life; and, after her death, to trustees to money to pursell, and to employ £500 of the money arising from for his son, the such sale in the purchase of an annuity for the life son may elect to take the money, of his son; this is a vested interest in the son im-without having mediately on the testator's death: if he survive his chased. mother, he may elect to take £500, without having it laid out in an annuity; and, should he die before the tenant for life (but having survived the testator) his personal representatives will be entitled to the money, as a vested pecuniary legacy(n). It must be observed, however, that, a bequest of an annuity to a woman and her children, such cases. to be paid out of the testator's general effects, until it should be convenient to the testator's executors to invest a competent sum in the funds in

If a man bequeath a sum of an annuity pur-

tions made in

⁽¹⁾ Batsford v. Kebbel, 3 Ves. 364; Scott v. Bargeman, 2 P. Wms. 68.

⁽m) Blamire v. Geldart, 16 Ves. 316.

⁽n) Bayley v. Bishop, 9 Ves.

^{9;} Yates v. Compton, 2 P. Wms. 309; Dawson v. Killet, 1 Br. 123; Palmer v. Craufurd, 2 Wils. Ch. Rep. 84; Balmain v. Shore, 9 Ves. 507; Barnes v. Rowley, \$ Ves. 305.

lieu thereof, for the use of the legatees and the longest liver of them: has been determined (though not without doubt,) to be annuity only, not an absolute legacy of a specific sum, which the legatees might elect to take, as such (o). But, a gift of the dividends to arise from stock in the public funds is, in effect, a gift of the corpus, where there is no bequest over of the principal (p).

Limits within which a testator devolution of his property.

The Law, as we have seen, from an indulgence which a restator may control the to the natural wishes of men to perpetuate their property in their own families, has given them a power of controlling its devolution, for one or more lives in being at the same time, and twenty-one years afterwards. But public convenience, sound constitutional policy, and the spirit of liberty which breathes through every principle of our Law, will not endure any species of property to be chained In what cases down longer. A bequest over, therefore, to take of issue could not place after an indefinite failure of the first taker's issue; is an attempt to practise a fraud upon the Law; and, as such, void (q). But, whenever it appears, that, the legatee over was to take personalby, and not otherwise, this affords a strong presumption, that, an indefinite failure of issue could not be in the testator's contemplation (r). the gift over be only in default of issue of the first taker, "living at his death," the limitation over would

indefinite failure be contemplated:

⁽o) Innes v. Mitchell, 6 Ves. 466; S. C. on appeal, 9 Ves.

⁽p) Richards v. Richards, 9 Price, 222, 227.

⁽q) Keiley v. Power, Wilm.

^{307;} Beauclerc v. Dormer, 2 Atk. 312.

⁽r) Massey v. Hudson, 2 Meriv. 133; Barlow v. Salter, 17 Ves. 483.

would be good (s). And, a bequest over, in case the first legatee die without "leaving" issue; is construed to mean, leaving issue at his death (t). It seems, also, that, when the executors, nominatim, are to carry into effect the bequest over, this personal trust will exclude the idea that the testator used the words "without issue" in their technical sense (u). But, it is well settled, that, unless there are expressions in the will, or circumstances, from there are no circumstances to liwhich it can be collected, that, these words were mit the technical sense of the words used by the testator in a more confined sense; "without issue," they must have their legal signification; name-derstood to mean, such cases, the question is, whether the limitation not good in its creation; whether it must, necessarily, take place, (if it take place is a limit of take place is a lim the limits prescribed by Law: it will be of no avail to urge, that, in the events which have happened, the limitation does not exceed those bounds (x).

But, where they must be un-

If a bequest be made, not to individuals, but, to classes of persons; should there be any individuals of one intended class who cannot legally collectively, some take, the gift to that whole class must fail. it would be making a new will for the testator, if take; the whole

If a bequest be made in favor of a class of persons of the individuals For, of which class a Court gift must fail.

⁽s) Donn v. Penny, 19 Ves.

⁽t) Crooke v. De Vandes, 9 Ves. 204; Atkinson v. Hutchinson, 3 P. Wms. 262; Forth v. Chapman, 1 P. Wms. 666. (u) Keiley v. Power, Wilm. See Fearne on Rem. 483, (6th edit.); Bigge v. Bens-

ley, 1 Br. 189.

⁽w) Barlow v. Salter, 17 Ves. 482; Donn v. Penny, 19 Ves. 548; Beauclerc v. Dormer, 2 Atk. 314.

⁽x) Jee v. Audley, 1 Cox, 326; Routledge v. Dorrell, 2 Ves. Junr. 363; Griffiths v. Vere, 9 Ves. 184.

But a mere mistake as to the number of a class. will not vitiate a bequest to the class generally.

named will be

a Court were to split into portions his general bequest to the class; and to say, that, because the rule of Law forbids his intention from operating in favor of the whole class, his bequests shall be converted into (what the testator never intended them to be, namely,) a series of particular legacies to particular individuals: or, by subdividing the class itself, when no such distinction was in the contemplation of the testator (y). But, where a testator has designated no particular individuals as the objects of his bounty, making his bequest to a class generally; the mere fact that he has mistaken the number of that class will not vitiate the gift; such numerical specification may be rejected, as repugnant. If the legacy be of a certain sum to be divided amongst the class, ut res magis valeat, all answering that description will share equally; otherwise, the gift would be void for un-Should a testa- certainty (x). If the bequest be of a fixed sum to every one" of a incorrectly stated, every individual of the class will particular class, be entitled to that sum (a) duals, no one un- tor, after a bequest to trustees in favor of "all and entitled to share. every one" of a particular class, should proceed to enumerate and name the individuals composing that class; although such enumeration should be defective, it will be considered as sufficiently ascertaining

Ves. 126; Tomkins v. Tomkins, cited from Reg. Lib. ibid. Stebbing v. Walkey, 1 Cox, 251; Scott v. Fenhoulett, 1 Cox, 79. See, ante, p. 346.

⁽y) Leake v. Robinson, 2 Meriv. 390.

⁽z) Sleech v. Thorington, 2 Ves. Senr. 564; Stebbing v. Walkey, 2 Br. 86.

⁽a) Garvey v. Hibbert, 19

certaining whom the testator meant to include, when he spoke of "all"; and no unnamed individual of the class will be entitled to a share (b).

It is now settled, that, a bequest over, in case of When a bequest the death of a legatee before a certain period, may effect, and when take effect, if he should die before the time speci- it will lapse, if the first legates fied, although during the testator's life. Had the die before the first legatee survived the period appointed, and then died before the testator, if that event was not provided for by the will, the legacy must have But when, in such case, the testator lapsed (c). has used words sufficiently comprehensive to carry such legacy over, there is nothing, certainly, in point of Law to prevent that intention from taking effect (d).

If a testator, by his will, says "he returns to A. his bond (e):" or, that, "he forgives and remits to bond to be re-A. the sum he stands indebted on hond (f):" or, turned to the obligor; this that, "he gives to A, the sum he owes on mort-bounty is legategage," adding a direction, that, his executor should "give him up all bonds" owing to the testator (g): or, that, after certain deductions, he "gives to A. the residue of a recognizance, due from him" directing the executors "freely to deliver the security into the hands of the said A., his executors, adminis-

If a testator by his will direct a ry only;

trators

⁽b) Eccard v. Brooke, 2 Cox, 217.

⁽c) Humberstone v. Stanton, 1 Ves. & Bea. 388; Dec v. Brabant, 3 Br. 398; S. C. 4 T. R. 709; Calthorpe v. Gough, 4 T. R. 707, note.

⁽d) Walker v. Main, 1 Jac.

[&]amp; Walk. 7.

⁽e) Maitland v. Adair, 3 Ves. 281.

⁽f) Inon v. Butler, 2 Price,

⁽g) Toplis v. Baker, 2 Cox, 118.

die before the testator, the legacy becomes lapsed.

trators and assigns (h):" in none of these cases, will the words of the testator amount to a release of the debt; they are legatory only, and if A. should die in the lifetime of the testator, the legacy would and if the debtor lapse, and the securities remain in force. case, however, where the words of the will were, "I forgive my son in law the debt he owes me on bond. and desire my executor to deliver the same to be cancelled;" though the legatee died before the testator. Lord Hardwicke gave his representative the benefit of the discharge of the debt: his Lordship thought, the intention was, that in all events the bond should be cancelled, as there was nothing personal in the direction that it should be deliver-A legacy may ed up (i). A gift of a legacy may, certainly. be De so tramed as to be a release of a demand; but the

be so framed as but the intent must be clear.

Where illegitimate children have acquired a name and character by reputation, they may take under that description.

There is no rule of policy against devising to the illegitimate children of a woman, as that creates no uncertainty. The difficulty arises upon a devise to the children of a particular man, by a woman to whom he is not married. But, where illegitimate children have acquired a name and character by reputation, they may take under that description: for it is not the fact of parentage, but the reputation of it, which is to be inquired into. No doubt, "Child, Son, Issue," and every word of that description, must be taken prima facie, to

pear,

intent must be quite clear (k).

mean legitimate child, son, or issue; but a question may arise, whether it does not necessarily ap-

⁽h) Elliot v. Davenport, 1 Atk. 580.

P. Wms. 84. (k) Wilmot v. Woodhouse, 4

⁽i) Sibthorp v. Moxom, 3

pear, on the face of the will, that, a testator meant illegitimate children. If it do so appear, and if it be made out, by evidence, who are the individuals of the will, that who have, by reputation, acquired the name and the testator character of children, they will take under the will. mate children: And it is not necessary that the will should con- a gift to them as tain a description amounting to designatio personarum; a testator may give to natural children, as a class (l). A prospective bequest, by a testator, to his unborn natural children, would not be va- bequest by a m to his unborn lid (m): But it would be practicable to give, effecis not valid; but tually, a legacy to a child with which an unmarried a legacy may be woman was pregnant, without reference to the fa- with which an ther; for, where the gift is only to the child of unmarried wothe woman, there can be no uncertainty, no fact to be tried: and, even although the testator should assign, as the motive for his bequest, a belief that he was the father of the illegitimate child en ventre sa mere; still, if it were not made a condition precedent to the gift, that the child should actually be the child of a particular individual as the father; and if the child were so described as to ascertain the object intended to be pointed out, it might take under that description (n). Upon a devise to children generally, it would be impossible to hold, to "children," without further that, an illegitimate child could share with lawful designation. an illegitimate child

When it apmeant illegiti-

a class is good.

A prospective bequest by a man

Under a devise children; can never take.

- (l) Wilkinson v. Adam, 1 Ves. & Bea. 446, 447, 450, 452, 453, 462, 465, 466, 468; Swaine v. Kennerley, 1 Ves. & Bea. 470; Lord Woodhouselee v. Dalrymple, .2 Meriv. 422; Beachcroft v. Beachcroft, 1 Mad. 440; Bayley v. Snelham,
- 1 Sim. & Stu. 81.
- (m) Arnold v. Preston, 18 Ves. 288; Blodwell v. Edwards, Cro. Eliz. 510; Earle v. Wilson, 17 Ves. 532.
- (n) Gordon v. Gordon, 1 Meriv. 153; Evans v. Massey, 8 Pr. 35.

children (e); or even, that, it could take, under that designation, without more, although there may be no legitimate children answering the description (p).

An executor, to whom a power of the testator's relations is given, the rule of the butions; but a beyond that rule.

Whenever the execution of a will giving beselection amongst quests to the testator's "relations" devolves upon the Court, the statute of distributions is the rule is not confined to generally adhered to, for deciding who are entitled statute of distri- to the benefit of the bequest (q): though, an exe-Court never goes cutor to whom a power of selection is distinctly given may go beyond that rule (r): so, a legacy to the testator's relations "by blood or marriage," will be confined to such as come within the statute, and those who have married persons entitled under it (s). The same rule applies, generally speaking, to bequests of personalty to the testator's "family"(t); but, the word "family" in a devise or limitation of real estate, has been frequently held to be a devise, or limitation, to the heir at But, with respect to the estates of femes law(u). covertes, the statute affords no certain rule for distribution,

The statute affords no rule for distribution of estates of femes covertes:

- (o) Cartwright v. Vandry, 5 Ves. 534.
- (p) Godfrey v. Davis, 6 Ves. 48.
- (q) Cruwys v. Coleman, 9 **Ves.** 324; but see Brandon v. Brandon, 1 Turn. & Russ. 319.
- (r) Walter v. Maunde, 19 Ves. 426; Harding v. Glyn, 1 Atk. 470; Brown v. Higgs, 4 Ves. 719, 5 Ves. 503, and 8 Ves. 571; Supple v. Lowson, Ambl. 730.
 - (s) Devisme v. Mellish, 5

Ves. 529.

- (t) Crumys v. Coleman, 9 Ves. 324; Brandon v. Brandon, 2 Wils. Ch. Ca. 24; but see M'Leroth v. Bacon, 5 Ves. 167; and Crosley v. Clare, 3 Swanst. 323, note.
- (u) Wright v. Atkins, 17 Ves. 261, citing Chapman's case, Dyer, 333, b; Counden v. Clerke, Hob. 33; and see Doe v. Smith, 5 Mau. & Selw. 129; Pyot v. Pyot, 1 Ves. Senr. 338.

distribution, even in cases of intestacy; or rather, it contains, in favor of the husband, an express exception from the general rule (w): and where a norm a reference bequest is made, not in favor of "relations," inde-cessary, when the finitely, but the word relations is qualified by re-testator has himself defined what straining it to particular objects, as, for instance, description of relations he meant. to poor relations, there the gift has been extended to all that were poor, though they stood in different degrees of relationship (x): for such a bequest is in the nature of a charity (y). It has also been held, that, as there is no uncertainty in a bequest to "nearest relations," it is unnecessary to resort to the statute of distributions for a rule of construction: but that those who strictly answer the testator's description should take, to the exclusion of others more remote in point of consanguinity, though within the degrees pointed out by the statute (*). Under a limitation, however, to "the first and nearest" of a testator's "kindred, being male and of his under a devise to the testator's name and blood," no one can successfully claim who "kindred of his name and blood," is not, by birth, of the same name, as well as of the the claimant must same blood, as the testator. The requisite qualifi- name by descent: cation as to the name is not satisfied by an assumption of the name, with the King's licence: no one who is not entitled to the name by descent can answer the description required by the testator (a).

To make title be of the same

- (w) See the last section of stat. of 29 Car. 2, c. 8; and Brandon v. Brandon, 3 Swarst.
- (x) Crosley v. Clare, 3 Swanst. 323, note; Brunsden v. Woolridge, Ambl. 507.
 - (y) Isaac v. De Friez, stated
- from Reg. Lib. in note to 17 Ves. 373; White v. White, 7 Ves. 423.

So.

- (z) Smith v. Campbell, 19 Ves. 400; Brandon v. Brandon, 8 Swenst. 319.
- (a) Leigh v. Leigh, 15 Ves. 100, 109.

So, where a devise was made to a female on condition of her marrying a person of the testator's name;

tor only meant to point out a particular stock.

she married a person who changed his name to that prescribed by the will; but, it was determined, that, this voluntary change was not a performance of the condition, and did not entitle the party to unless the testa- the benefit of the devise (b). If it appear, however, that, the testator only meant to point out a particular stock, the construction may be different: thus, a testator by a bequest to his daughter, and, in case of her death, then over to "her nearest relation of the name of the Pyots," was held only to point out the stock, in favor of which he directed a devolution of his property; and, that, it was not necessary the individual who answered his description, in this principal respect, should also, at the time of the testator's decease, bear the name It is to be observed, that, in this of Pyot(c). case, the patronymic name of the parties to whom the bequest was adjudged was "Pyot," though, being females, they had changed it by marriage, subsequently to the making of the will.

Observation as to the case of Pyot v. Pyot.

devise in trust,

the descent has been broken,

though two sis-

ters who prove to be the cestuis

que trust should

purchase.

A devise to trustees, their heirs and executors, When, under a does not the less break the descent of the devised estate, because the trustees are directed, after certain charges are satisfied, to convey and assign the estate, to persons described as purchasers, and also be the testanot as the heirs of the testator; though, in fact,

tor's co-heiresses, they will take by that character may happen to belong to them. therefore, under such a devise, two or more sisters

^{338:} see Leigh v. Leigh, 15 (b) Barlow v. Bateman, 4 Br. P. C. 194, (folio edit.) Ves. 111.

⁽c) Pyot v. Pyot, 1 Ves. Senr.

prove to be the cestuis que trust, and also the coheiresses of the testator, they will take, not as co-parceners by descent, but, as joint tenants by purchase; and, consequently, subject to survivorship (d). And it is quite clear, that, in Equity, Rules as to joint-(notwithstanding a different doctrine is held in the tenancy, and sur, Spiritual Courts, which follow the civil Law,) a respect to perbequest of personalty to more than one, without words of severance, creates a joint-tenancy; to which, if not severed by act of the parties, survivorship is a necessary incident (e). And, as between two executors, any part of the testator's property not reduced into possession before the death of one executor, survives to the other (f); either beneficially or in trust, according to the nature of the will. When interest, until the arrival of a certain event, has not been disposed of by a up to a certain time is not distestator, it must fall into the residue; if, for in-posed of, it must stance, a bond be so bequeathed to a particular due of a testator's person as not to vest in him till a given time, the intermediate interest accruing thereon will go to increase the residue; and if the residue itself be given in futuro, any intermediate interest will. in that case, go to the executor (g).

vivorship, with

When interest fall into the resi-

Where an annuity has been bequeathed, or any disposition of property in the nature of an annui-ment of an annuity has been made by will, in favor, first of one le- dends, in favor of gatee, and upon his decease over; no apportion-

No apportionty, or of divirepresentatives;

ment

3 Br. 59.

lawney, 6 Ves. 134; Jackson v.

⁽d) Swaine v. Burton, 15 Ves. Jackson, 9 Ves. 595. 370. (f) White v. Williams, 3 Ves. (e) Cray v. Willis, 2 P. & Bea. 75. Wms. 529; Whitmore v. Tre-(g) Wyndham v. Wyndham,

but a different rule applies as to the interest accruing upon a mortgage.

ment of any payment, not actually become due in the lifetime of the first legatee, can be made in favor of his representative (h). The same rule applies with respect to dividends upon government securities (t): but not to the interest accruing upon a mortgage; which is held to become due from day to day (k): or another reason may be assigned, namely, the affinity which interest upon a landed security bears to rent; which is apportionable by statute (l).

Enactments of the statute of distributions, as to bringing into hotchpot advances made to his children by an intestate, in bis lifetime.

The statute of distributions (m), after saving, by the 4th section, the customs of the city of London, and of the province of York, provides, by the 5th section, that, any child of an intestate, or the representative of any deceased child (not being the heir at law,) who shall have any estate by settlement of the intestate, or shall be advanced by the intestate in his lifetime, by portion equal to the share which, by distribution under the said statute, shall be allotted to the other children, shall be excluded from all benefit of such distribution: and if the advancement of such child be not equal to the share which will be due to the other children; then, the child, so partially advanced, shall receive such share of the surplusage of the intestate's estate as will make the estate of all the

Favor shewn to children equal. But, the heir at law, notwiththe heir at law. standing

(h) Franks v. Noble, 12 Ves.

491.

Atk. 261.

(l) Stat. 11 Geo. 2, c. 19, s. 15: see Aynsley v. Wordsworth, 2 Ves. & Bea. 334.

10.

⁽i) Sherrard v. Sherrard, 3 Atk. 503; Wilson v. Harman, 2 Ves. Senr. 673.

⁽k) S. C. Pearly v. Smith, 3

⁽m) Stat. 22 & 28 Car, 2, c.

standing any land that he shall have, by descent or otherwise, from the intestate, is to have an equal share in the distribution with the rest of the children.

By the act of 29 Car. 2, c. 3, s. 25, the statute of distributions is declared not to extend to es- is entitled to a tates of femes covertes who die intestate; but, that, his wife's personal estate; the husband is entitled to administration of their personal estates; and, should he die without tak- and if he die, his ing out such administration, the wife's next of kin, beneficially enif they administer, will be trustees for the hus-titled. band's personal representative (n). It has been decided, that, the provision in the statute of dis- in the statute, which requires tributions, for bringing into hotchpot all ad-all advances to vances to children, applies only to cases of actual brought into intestacy; and that, where there is an executor, only to cases of and consequently a complete will, though the disposition thereby made fails, and the executor is declared a trustee for the next of kin, they take as if the property had been actually bequeathed to them: and, consequently, a child cannot be called upon to bring into hotchpot advances received in the parent's lifetime, before such child can claim under the quasi intestacy of the parent (a). And. where a child takes under his father's will either share in any resireal or personal estate, but there is an intestacy due undisposed of, without as to the residue, the child may take a share of bringing into that, without bringing into hotchpot what he took he took under the under the will. For, though we have seen, that, a provision by will may be a satisfaction of a por-

The husband is entitled to ad-

representatives

The provision children to be hotchpot, applies actual intestacy:

And a child hotchpot what will of his parent.

tion

⁽o) Walton v. Walton, 14 (a) Cart v. Rees, cited in Squib v. Wynn, 1 P. Wms. Ves. 324. See, ante, pp. 287, 381. 327.

tion covenanted to be secured in the testator's lifetime (p); vet, what is taken under a will can never be deemed an actual advancement in the lifetime of the testator; and it is to such advancement only that the provision as to bringing into hotchpot applies (q).

A grandchild must bring advances into hotchpot;

alty:

bring all ad-

it ought not to

vancement.

An advance-

When a grandchild, who claims by representation in right of his deceased parent, has been advanced by the intestate, such grandchild, though not within the letter, is within the spirit of the act, and must bring the advancement into hotchas the heir must pot (r). So, if the heir hath any advancement by vances of person. money, or personal estate of any kind, that is to be reckoned as part of his share; for, it is only as to land that he is exempted by the statute from bringing any advances made to him into hotch-When money, pot(s). However, if a man after having laid out expended by an intestate on a real money on repairs of houses, or improvement of estate given by him to his heir, real estate, give such houses or estate to his heir, ought, and when and then die intestate: the money so laid out canbe deemed an ad- not be deemed an advancement to the heir. indeed, the intestate had irrevocably parted with the premises, and afterwards given his heir a sum of money to ameliorate them, that would have been an advancement (t).

Any preferment, ecclesiastic, civil, or military, made by procure procured by a parent for his child, is an advancement:

⁽p) Leake v. Leake, 10 Ves.

^{489.}

⁽q) Twisden v. Twisden, 9 Ves. 426.

⁽r) Norton v. Barker, 2

Freem. 190.

⁽s) Pratt v. Pratt, Fitz-Gib. 84; Anonym. 2 Freem. 190.

⁽t) Smith v. Smith, 5 Ves.

^{721.}

ment (u): as is an annuity, or a reversion (w), ing any preferupon each of which a fair valuation must be made. ment for a child; or an annuity; or It is not necessary that the provision should reversion; or even take effect in possession during the father's life-provision. time: a portion secured in futuro is an advancement; and, even if it were only given on a contingency, yet, should the contingency happen, the portion must be brought into hotchpot (x).

Sir Joseph Jekyll was of opinion, that, the exemption of the heir at law, given by the statute, applied only to the heir at common Law, Kar' ¿ξοyήν, and not to a customary heir. He, therefore, decided, that, a youngest son, who, as such, took who takes lands in borough engby descent lands in borough english, should bring lish by descent, them into hotchpot (y). Lord Talbot, however, them into hotchreversed this decree (z): and, indeed, in order to pot. maintain the right of the party taking by the custom in such case, it is not necessary to determine whether he is, or is not, such an heir as the statute intended; the case comes within the reasoning of Lord Eldon, who has observed, that, what is taken under an intestacy, by descent, can never be esteemed an advancement by the intestate (a).

The advancement of children is never brought into hotchpot for the benefit of the intestate's wi- child are never

Weyland v. Weyland, 2 Atk. shares of the rest.

- (y) Pratt v. Pratt, W. Kelynge, 35; S. C. Fitz-Gib. 288.
- (z) Lutwyche v. Lutwyche, Ca. temp. Talb. 276, 280.
- (a) Twisden v. Twisden, 9 Ves. 426.

by a contingent

A younger son, need not bring

(u) Kirkcudbright v. Kirkcudbright, 8 Ves. 55, 63; Colonel Norton's case, 2 Freem. 190; Pusey v. Desbouverie, 8 P. Wms. 317, note.

(w) Edwards v. Freeman, 2 P. Wms. 442.

(x) S. C. p. 445: and see

Advances to a brought into dow: hotchpot, except to increase the

dow (b): and, in cases upon the custom of London, the effect of advancement by the father is, not to increase the part of the estate of which the father may dispose, but, solely to remove that child out of the way, and to increase the shares of the others (c). So, when a settlement bars, or makes a composition for, the wife's customary share, that will fall into the general residue of the personal estate (d); and not go wholly to the executor of the father (e). The wife's claim, also, is totally excluded by such settlement, whether the husband does, or does not, exercise the power of disposal he thereby acquired; the property will go, at his death, exactly as if there were no wife in existence (f).

A donatio mortis causa has perties of a lega-

A donatio mortis causa has many of the propermany of the pro- ties of a legacy; it is liable to debts, and is dependent on survivorship (g): being also a revocable gift, it has been questioned whether it ought not to be held so far testamentary as to be liable to legacy it is not a present duty (h). It is not a present absolute gift, vesting immediately; but a conditional one, of which the enjoyment is postponed till after the giver's death (i). still, as it must be On the other hand, though liable to be defea-

a complete gift

absolute gift;

(b) Kirkcudbright v. Kirkcudbright, 8 Ves. 64.

- (c) Folkes v. Western, 9 Ves. 460.
- (d) Morris v. Burrowes, 2 Atk. 629; Read v. Snell, 2 Atk. 644; Knife v. Thornton, 2 Eden, 121.
- (e) Ives v. Medcalfe, 1 Atk. 63.

'(f) Pickering v. Lord Stamford, 3 Ves. 337.

sanced,

- (g) Tate v. Hilbert, 2 Ves. Junr. 120; Jones v. Selby, Prec. in Cha. 303; Miller v. Miller, 3 P. Wms. 357.
- (h) Woodbridge v. Spooner, 3 Barn. & Ald. 236. See infrd.
- (i) Walter v. Hodge, 2 Swanst. 98.

sanced, it must, subject to such revocation, be a inter vivos, it recomplete gift inter vivos; and therefore requires no bate. probate (k); which seems some answer to the doubt as to its liability to legacy duty, the mode of collecting which is by an ad valorem stamp upon probate (1). A donatio mortis causa differs also from a legacy in this particular,—the subject of gift tis causa must be must in the former case be delivered by the do-completed by the do-donor himself. nor; in the latter case by his representative (m): and the distinction between a nuncupative will and a donatio mortis causa is, that, the bounty given by the former is to be received from the executor; but in the latter case may be held against him, and requires no assent on his part; the thelivery having been completed by the donor himself(n). The greater number of cases upon this subject have turned upon the question of actual of actual tradition, is that upon tradition of the gift: the general rule, according which cases of this kind comto which delivery is necessary, is never now dis-mouly turn: puted; but, whether such delivery has, or has not been legally completed; or, whether the nature of the gift constitutes an exception, exempting it from the operation of the general rule; still, not unfrequently, presents debateable ground (o). Where actual tradition is impracticable, if the donor proceed as far as the nature of the subject adactual tradition is not practicable, mits towards a transfer of the possession, effect the gift may sometimes take

The question

Where such

may

- (k) Ward v. Turner, 2 Ves. Senr. 435; Tate v. Hilbert, ubi supra: Ashton v. Dawson, Sel. Ca. in Cha. 14,
- (I) Stat. 55 Geo. 5, c. 184, 4. 38.
 - (m) Walter v. Hodge, WF

suprā.

- (n) Duffield v. Elwes, 1 Sim. & Stu. 244; Ward v. Tilrnet. 2 Ves. Senr. 443.
- (o) Tate v. Hilbert, ubl saprà; Luivson v. Laisson, I P. ₩ms. 441.

effect, if the donor transfer possession as far as the nature of the subject admita:

may be given to his intended bounty: thus, a ship at sea has been determined to be virtually delivered by a delivery of the bill of sale, defeasible on the donor's recovery: and delivery of the key of a warehouse, or of a trunk, has been held a sufficient delivery of the goods in such warehouse, and of the contents of the trunk: for, in these instances. the bill of sale, and the keys, were not considered as symbols; but as the means of attaining possesbut a mere sym- sion of the property (p). A mere symbolical delivery will not be sufficient; therefore, there can be no donatio mortis causá of a simple contract debt(q); though there may of a bond (r); for. notwithstanding it is a chose en action, some property is conveyed by the delivery (s). But, the case of a bond is an exception, not a rule: and where a bond is only a collateral security for a mortgage debt, the delivery of the bond will not be a complete gift of the mortgage (t). A cheque on a banker (u), or a promissory note (w), seems not capable of disposition by way of donatio mortis causá: and where there has been a complete

delivery of the gift, yet, if the possession be not

continued in the donee, but the donor resume it.

bolical delivery will not suffice.

By resumption of the subject of gift, a donatio mortis causa is at an end.

An

(p) Brown v. Williams, cited 2 Ves. Sen. 434; Jones v. Selby, as cited 2 Ves. Senr. 441.

the gift is at an end (x).

- (q) Gardner v. Parker, 3 Mad. 185.
- (r) Snellgrove v. Bailey, 3 Atk. 214; S. C. Ridgway's Ca. temp. Hardwicke, 202.
 - (s) Ward v. Turner, 2 Ves.

Senr. 442.

- (t) Duffield v. Elwes, 1 Sim. & Stu. 244.
 - (u) Tate v. Hilbert, 4 Br. 291.
- (w) Miller v. Miller, 3 P. Wms. 357.
- (x) Bunn v. Markham, 7 Taunt. 232; S. C. 2 Marsh.

An interest bequeathed by will may vest in right, an executory dealthough it remains contingent as to the posses-vise, the interest sion. If, indeed, a testator give a legacy express- of the first taker and that of the ly upon a contingency, unless that contingency done over vest at the same time: happen the legacy does not vest; but, in the case of an executory devise, the interest of the first taker and that of the subsequent taker vest at the same time (y): the interest is transmissible; and notwith- and the interest standing the party in whose favor the executory of the latter is transmissible. devise was made, died before the contingency (on which the bequest was to come into possession.) occurred, his representative will be entitled (*).

In the case of

347; Lady Lincoln v. Pelham, 10 Ves. 175; Browne v. Lord Kenyon, 3 Mad. 416.

⁽y) Barnes v. Allen, 1 Br.

⁽z) King v. Withers, Ca. temp. Talb. 123; Anonym. 2 Ventr.

CHAPTER XI.

Fraudulent claims in respect of an Intestate's, or Testator's, Domicil.

Law of that they were domiat their decease:

the lex loci rei sita only prevails had no domicil.

THE succession to the personal property of inpersonal proper-testates is to be regulated by the Law of that counregulated by the try of which they were domiciled inhabitants at country of which the time of their decease; without regard to the ciled inhabitants place where the casualty of their death, or of their birth, happened; or of the situation of the property at that time. The lex loci rei sitæ can only star only prevails when an intestate had no domicil; in which case, certainly, no good cause could be shewn why the property should be withdrawn from that jurisdiction within the limits of which it was actually situated (a).

The question of domicil does not very often come before our Courts;

From our happy insular situation, the question of domicil less frequently comes before our own Courts, than before those of continental Europe; in many parts of which, owing to the intermixture of different states, in many instances separated only by an ideal boundary, the subject is one of frequent discussion. As little is to be found in

⁽a) Bempde v. Johnstone, 3 Burn v. Cole, Ambl. 416; Ves. 201; Somerville v. Lord Curling v. Thornton, 2 Ad-Somerville, 5 Ves. 786, 791; dams, 15. Pipon v. Pipon, Ambl. 27;

our own Law upon the subject. Judges have com- the writings of monly thought it proper to resort to the writings commonly resortof foreign jurists, for the decision of most of the ed to, as attorning principles of dequestions that arise here concerning domicil (b).

foreign jurists are cision.

The principal reported cases in our own coun- The cases in our try have arisen with respect to natives of Scot-own Courts have, land; in which part of Great Britain the rules as arisen with reto the distribution of personal property differ from of Scotland. those of England (c). If a person domiciled in England die intestate, leaving real estate in Scot- of the Law of England, and land, the heir, if one of the next of kin within that of Scotland, the statute of distributions, may claim a share of the bution of an inpersonal estate. For though, by the Law of Scot-ty. land, the heir cannot share in the personal property with the other next of kin, except on condition of collating the real estate, so as to form one common subject of division together with the personal estate; yet, in the case put, the English Law must decide the question, and the heir will be entitled to take his share of the personalty, without complying with that obligation as to the real estate (d). On the other hand, if an intestate, who was domiciled in England, had granted a heritable bond upon his real estate in Scotland, though to secure a debt contracted in England; the Law of Scotland must, in such case, prevail; according to which, real estate is the primary fund for the pay-

principally, spect to natives

Different effect as to the distritestate's personal-

ment of heritable bonds charged thereon; though

⁽b) Pottinger v. Wightman, 3 Meriv. 79.

⁽d) Balfour v. Scott, stated in 2 Ves. & Bea. 131: see

⁽c) Brodie v. Barry, 2 Ves. Hunter v. Potts, 4 T. R. 192. & Bea. 131.

it is abundantly clear, that, by the English Law the personal estate is primarily answerable for debts (e). In the first of these cases, the Scottish Courts could have no right to interfere with the distribution of personalty, which always follows the domicil; in the latter case, it would be equally improper for an English Court to interfere with real estate situated in Scotland, and the devolution of which ought to be guided by the Laws of that country.

The place, not and fixed abode, is, primă facie, to be considered as his domicil.

The place of a party's birth is entitled to have of a party's birth, but little stress laid on it, in deciding as to his domicil; the place of his actual abode is, primá facie, as to a great many given purposes, his domicil: but if it can be shewn, that, such abode was either constrained, or from the necessity of his affairs, or transitory; all character of permanency, necessary to constitute a domicil, is destroyed. If an intestate had a fixed residence, upon an establishment of his own, in a particular place, and in no other, that residence must be deemed his domicil (f).

If a native of Scotland go to the East Indies, residence there, in that capacity, will effect a change of domi.

the case might be different if he went out in the Company's service:

If a native of Scotland, domiciled there, enter into the King's service and go out to the East Inin the King's ser-vice, no length of dies as a military officer, his residence there, in that capacity, for whatever length of time, will not effect a change of domicil; and, if he die intestate, his personal property must be distributed according to the Law of Scotland: but if the same individual had gone out to the same station in the Company's

⁽e) Drummond v. Drummond, stated in 2 Ves. & Bea. 132; (f) Bempde v. Johnstone, 3 Elliot v. Lord Minto, 6 Mad. Ves. 202.

Company's service, for the purpose of following a profession there; such a residence would have had the character of permanence, and have created a new domicil (g): consequently, as the British territories in the East Indies are considered within the province of Canterbury, his personal effects must have been distributed according to the rules of English Law (h). It would be immaterial whether the party had, or had not, left India before his death; if he had subsequently acquired no new domicil: a domicil once established cannot be a domicil is not lost by mere abandonment (i).

Though we have seen, that, where the question related to two domicils, either of which, as being his original doboth British, the deceased was free to elect, there micil, for another the original domicil may be held to have been shift- British; ed; yet this cannot be done, even in such case, until the party has, not only acquired another domicil, but, has manifested, and carried into execution, an intention of abandoning his former domicil, and taking another as his sole domicil (k). But, the the difficulty difficulty of a British-born subject shifting his fo- would be extreme, of allowrum originis for a foreign domicil is, and ought to ing him to adopt a foreign domicil, be, infinitely greater. It may be doubted, whe-by a total renunther a British subject can possibly be allowed, by rum originis. any act whatever, so far "exuere patriam" as to select a foreign domicil in complete derogation of his

lost by mere abandonment.

But, though a Briton may shift which is also

ciation of his fo-

⁽g) See, however, a doubt intimated as to this in Attorney General v. Cockerell, 1 Price,

⁽h) Bruce v. Bruce, and, Marsh v. Hutchinson, 2 Bos. &

Pull. 229.

⁽i) Munroe v. Douglas, 5 Mad. 405.

⁽k) Somerville v. Lord Somerville, 5 Ves. 787.

his British; and nothing but such complete renunciation of his country can render his property in this country liable to distribution according to any foreign law (l). If therefore, an Englishman residing abroad die intestate, leaving property in this country, it by no means follows that the Courts here must, in the distribution of the assets here. defer to the Laws of the country in which the intestate died, though he may have procured letters of naturalization there: and it would be a still less tenable position to hold, that, where a person so circumstanced with respect to domicil has left a will, the invalidity of that instrument according to the law of the country in which the testator, a British-born subject, died, must necessarily defeat its claim to probate in the Courts of this country (m).

The domicil of infants is deterthe father; or, after his death, by that of the mother; unless a change has been made merely to alter the rule of succession.

The domicil of infants, until they are capable of mined by that of obtaining one of their own, is determined by that of their father, if he be living; if, after his death, they remain under the care of the mother, they follow the domicil which she may acquire; provided, that, the domicil has not been changed for the fraudulent purpose of obtaining an advantage by altering the rule of succession: and such fraud will be presumed, if no reasonable cause can be assigned for the change (n).

⁽¹⁾ Curling v. Thornton, 2 (n) Pottinger v. Wightman, 3 Meriv. 80. Addams, 17.

⁽m) S. C. p. 19.

CHAPTER XII.

Frauds in which Executors. Administrators. or Guardians, are concerned.

IT is the first duty of all accounting parties, (and, in this respect, executors, administrators, and ministrators, and guardians, as well as all others holding offices always be ready with their acof trust, stand in the same situation;) to be con- counts: stantly ready with their accounts: and if a delay if their neglect in the just distribution of the property arise, from the distribution the neglect or fraud of those whose duty it was of property intrusted to their to have the accounts forthcoming; that is a clear charge, they will ground upon which a Court of Equity will act; interest; and the defaulters will be charged with interest upon what they have detained from the parties entitled to it: and, also, made to pay all costs of as well as the proceedings rendered necessary by their misconduct (a). For, when an executor, instead of ap-they have rendered necessary: plying the money to the uses of the will, or bringing it into Court, retains his testator's assets in his own hands, after all the purposes which would afford a reasonable ground for its detention are satisfied; it will be presumed, that, he keeps it in order to make his own advantage of it: and he will

Executors, adguardians, must

⁽a) Pearce v. Green, 1 Jac. & Walk. 140; Freeman v. Fairlie, 8 Meriv. 48.

neral rule, an exto his costs.

though, as a ge- will not only be charged with interest (b); but. alneral rule, an executor is entitled though it is a general rule, that, an executor is entitled to his costs, yet, in case of misconduct, they may be refused (c): or, the executors may even (as we have before seen) be directed to pay costs(d). It has, indeed, been said, judicially. that, wherever executors are decreed to pay interest, as for a breach of trust, there costs against them follow of course (e): but the unrestrained generality of this rule has, frequently, been denied(f).

An executor who neglects to lay out money, directed to be accumulated,

accumulated, his executor, by accepting that office, is bound to pursue those directions, within the must pay interest: limits of Law. If he omit laying out the money where it will be productive, whenever there are competent sums to be invested, he cannot complain though he should be charged with interest a fortiori, when according to the most rigid rule (g). A fortiori, drawn sums from when an executor has drawn sums out of a situaa situation in which they were producing interest, he actually produc- must, at least, account for that interest (h). though a Court of Equity will not be disposed to weigh in golden scales the conduct of an executor,

When a testator's will directs his property to be

he has with-

even

- (b) Dawson v. Massey, 1 Ba. & Beat. 231.
- (c) Newton v. Bennett, 1 Br. 362; Caffrey v. Darby, 6 Ves.
- (d) Ashburnham v. Thompson, 13 Ves. 404; Crackelt v. Bethune, 1 Jac. & Walk. 589; Hide v. Haywood, 2 Atk. 126.
 - (e) Seers v. Hind, 1 Ves.

- Junr. 294; Hall v. Hallett, 1 Cox, 141.
- (f) Sammes v. Rickman, 2 Ves. Junr. 36; Newton v. Bennett, ubi suprà; Tebbs v. Carpenter, 1 Mad. 308; Ashburnham v. Thompson, ubi suprà.
- (g) Raphael v. Boehm, 13 Ves. 592.
 - (h) S. C. 13 Ves. 411.

even under an express trust to accumulate; if he appear, upon the whole, to have honestly endeavoured to execute the trust; still, if he have not shewn any disposition to improve the money, he will be considered, as to the principal, to have lent it to himself, upon the same terms on which he could have lent it to others; and, as to the interest, annual rests may be directed, in order to charge him with compound interest; or, even half In extreme cases, yearly rests, which will have the effect of giving compound, or even double comdouble compound interest: though extreme cases pound interest alone will call for this severity (i). An executor, under a trust to accumulate, will not be permitted, when called upon to account, to look back and calculate, whether it would be better for him to abide by that situation in which he ought to have placed himself: if the money has been dealt with in any other way, the account will be taken on that footing, should it appear for the advantage of the cestui que trust (k).

may be given.

It would be too severe, however, to hold, that, But interest will an executor who has brought in his account, fair- not be given on a sum which an exly making a claim which appears to him, and per-ecutor has not haps to the Court also, to be just; but of which reasonable he cannot, upon technical rules of evidence, avail himself; should be in the same situation as if he had been guilty of fraud, or negligence, in the execution of his trust. Although the Court, therefore, may feel itself bound to disallow his claim.

paid in upon

and

⁽i) S. C. 11 Ves. 107, 111; Ves. 108; Dornford v. Dorn-Tebbs v. Carpenter, 1 Mad. ford, 12 Ves. 129; Bate v. Scales, 12 Ves. 405.

⁽k) Raphael v. Boehm, 11

cutor allowed inadvanced.

and to order the money to be paid in: interest will not be given upon a sum retained under such an When an exe-honest misapprehension of legal right (l). On the terest for money other hand, notwithstanding the frequent hardship of such a case, an executor who has advanced money of his own on account of his testator's estate, will be allowed interest upon such advances only from the time of a balance being struck on the general report; for, until that time, it cannot be ascertained that the executor has not money in his hands (m).

The usual rate of interest with are charged, is £4 per cent. but, £5 per cent. may be charged:

The rate of interest, with which executors will which executors be charged, upon balances unnecessarily kept in their hands is, usually, £4 per cent(n). But, where there has been a gross breach of trust, £5 per cent. will be charged; for it would be indeed a direct encouragement to executors, who may be in trade, to make use of their testator's property;' if they were only to be charged a low rate of interest (o): And if it appear, that, more than £5 per cent. has been made of the money, they must answer for that further sum(p). For it is a clear principle of Equity, that, if an executor or administrator lend the trust money on personal security, or embark the property of his infant wards in trade; the infants may hold such executor answerable

or, if a further profit has been made, that sum must be accounted for.

And where the property of infants has been embarked in trade by an executor, the infants, when of

⁽¹⁾ Bruere v. Pemberton, 12 Ves. 391.

⁽m) Gordon v. Trail, 8 Price, 416.

⁽h) Hall v. Hallett, 1 Cox, 138; Tebbs v Carpenter, 1 Mad. 306.

⁽o) Crackelt v. Bethune, 1 Jac. & Walk. 588; Heathcote v. Hulme, 1 Jac. & Walk. 135; Moseley v. Ward, 11 Ves. 582. (p) Pocock v. Redington, 5 Ves. 799; Piety v. Stace, 4 Ves. 622.

for all interest received, or accountable for any loss age, may elect, sustained, by risking the money on such security; profits, or to reand. as to money embarked in trade, when they new with interest. come to full age, they will have an option, either to take the profits, if the concern succeeds; or, if it will be more for their advantage, to reclaim their money, with interest (q). And if the funds have been advanced for a partnership, in which the executor was engaged, but the other individuals of which knew the infants to be entitled, if the firm become bankrupt, proof on behalf of the infants may be made against the partnership estate: but. if it would be more for the benefit of the infants to go against the separate estate of the executor, they will be at liberty to do so (r).

claim their mo-

It is never the inclination of Courts of Equity to discourage persons from acting as executors, throw difficulties by throwing difficulties in their way (s); but when executors; ever persons accept the trust of executors, they but, persons accepting a trust of must perform it: they must use due diligence, that kind must and not suffer infants, or others, to be injured by diligence in the their negligence. For any loss occasioned by if, by their default, any loss arise, they must sponsible: Thus, when a debt, which might have make it good to the estate. been recovered, is lost, by default of an executor. he must make the amount good to the estate (t): and when he has allowed arrears of rent to accu-

Equity never use reasonable

mulate.

⁽q) Treves v. Townsend, 1 Cox, 53; Adye v. Feuilleteau, 1 Cox, 25; Rocke v. Hart, 11 Ves. 60.

⁽r) Ex parte Watson, 2 Ves. & Bea. 415.

⁽s) Freeman v. Fairlie, 3 Mer.

⁽t) Powell v. Evans, 8 Ves. 843; Lowson v. Copeland, 2 Br. 157; Gaskell v. Harman, 11 Ves. 498.

A difference. made between cases of negliof misfeasance.

mulate, and ultimately such arrears are lost, he will be charged therewith (u): for, although the default may have arisen merely from negligence. and not from fraud or corruption, still the injury sustained by the devisees is the same. ence, however, will be made between cases of neggence, and cases ligence, and cases of misfeasance, in fixing the rate of interest with which executors should be charged, in respect of any balances retained in their hands (w).

To what extent assets may

be employed in carrying on a testator's trade.

terfere where executors act mala fide; though an entire discretion may have been given to them by will.

A discretion given to an executor, as to the investment of a testator's assets,

When a testator, after disposing of other property, directs, in a general way, that his trade should be carried on; the capital then actually embarked in the trade is all that his personal representatives are authorized in employing in that trade; if they embark more of the assets therein, it is a breach If a testator give his executors an Equity will in- of trust (x). entire discretion, whether to exercise, or to omit exercising, an authority given to them by the will; should it appear that they act mala fide, a Court of Equity will interfere: but if they honestly address themselves to a sound exercise of that discretion which the testator has thought fit to repose in them; their judgment will not be controlled (y). Still, where a testator's will directs, that, his assets shall be invested for the benefit of an infant legatee in "good and sufficient security," (which will be supersed- may seem to give the executor of such will a latitude

⁽u) Tebbs v. Carpenter, 1 Mad. 298.

⁽w) S. C. p. 307.

⁽x) Ex parte Richardson, 3 Mad. 157.

⁽y) French v. Davidson, 3 Mad. 402; Gower v. Mainwaring, 2 Ves. Senr. 89; Walker v. Walker, 5 Mad. 426.

tude as to the nature of the security to be taken,) ed, if it become if it be necessary to administer the estate under minister the the direction of a Court of Equity, the executor's estate under the direction of a discretion as to the investment is superseded. If, Court of Equity: after a decree, and when, consequently, he might have had the directions of the Court, the executor choose to lay out the money on mortgage; should the transaction appear to be for the infant's benefit, the Court will give the infant the advantage of it; but if otherwise, the fund will at least be considered as money, and the executor will be compelled to bring it into Court. After a decree, an executor cannot deal with the assets, for the pur- an executor cannot deal with the pose of investment, without the leave of the Court: assets, for the and that permission will never, except on special ment, without grounds, be extended to the laying out the money Court on mortgage. If the executor venture to take this step after an order to the contrary, he will be compelled to account for any loss which the estate may sustain by a variation in the price of stock; but, when no order has been made before the money was so lent, and the executor, though he mistook the limits of his authority, appears to have acted under the influence of no improper motive, the Court will not go further than to treat the money laid out, as money in the hands of the executor, which he must pay into Court (z). And even where there has been no decree, nor any pre- must not lend the assets on the sevious occasion for the interference of the Court; curity of a tradif executors in trust, relying on a power given them to invest the trust monies, "upon such real

purpose of investthe leave of the

er's bond:

or

⁽²⁾ Widdowson v. Duck, 2 Meriv. 499. See, post, p. 448.

on personal security as should seem good and sufficient." accommodate a trader with a loan upon his bond: they must be responsible for any loss occasioned by so imprudent a loan (a): and if it appear, that, they were induced to grant the eccommodation from motives of personal connexion with the borrower; the transaction will assume the darker complexion of fraud (b). On the in a real security. other hand, a Court of Equity will not allow executors to call in a real security, without an inquiry whether that step would be for the benefit of all the parties interested (c): but, in no case, ought they to permit money to remain on personal security (d).

or take upon themselves to call

An executor who purchases the estate of an infant devisee, does so at his peril:

And if he take, in his own name, a renewal of a lease devised by his testator, it will be a graft upon the old lease.

If an executor purchase the estate of an infant devisee, he does it at his peril; he cannot get rid of the bargain, if it prove unfavorable to him; that would be to take advantage of his own wrong: but the infant, on coming of age, may file a bill to have the property restored to him, or resold (2). if an executor, instead of renewing for the benefit of the devisees of a leasehold estate, whom it is his duty to protect; take a new lease in his own name; it will be a graft upon the old lease (f). Lord Manners thus lays down the principle to be extracted

- (a) Holmes v. Dring, 2 Cox, 1.
- (b) Langston v. Olivant, Coop.
- (c) Howe v. Lord Dartmoutk, 7 Ves. 150; Orr v. Newton, 2 Cox, 277; Walker v. Symonds, 3 Swanst. 62.
- (d) Powell v. Evans, 5 Ves. 844: see, post, p. 448.
- (e) Mulvany v. Dillon, 1 Ba. & Beat. 418.
- (f) James v. Dean, 15 Ves. 240; Mulvany v. Dillon, 1 Ba. & Beat. 419.

extracted from all the authorities on this subject:-" wherever a mortgagee, executor, trustee, or tenant for life, gets an advantage, either by being in possession, or behind the back of the party mortgagor, devisee, cestui que trust, or remainder-man; he shall not retain the same for his own benefit, but hold it in trust (g)."

Every person who acquires personal assets by a breach of trust, or devastavit in an executor, is re- a breach of trust by an executor, sponsible to those who are entitled under the will, is responsible to those who are inif he be a party to the executor's breach of trust: jured: Generally speaking, he does not become a par- but the disposal ty to the breach of trust, by buying or receiving is, prima facie, as a pledge for money advanced to the executor consistent with the duty of an at the time, any part of the personal assets; whe- executor. ther specifically given by the will or otherwise; because such sale is, primá facie, consistent with the duty of an executor(h): it is only on the ground of implied fraud, that, such a purchase, or pledge, can be held void in Equity (i): for, it is of great consequence, that, no rules should be laid down by Courts of Equity which would impede executors in their administration; or in any case render their dispositions of the testator's effects unsafe, or uncertain, to a purchaser: but fraud or covin will vitiate any transaction, and turn it to a mere color. If a person, by concert with an exe- Any fraudulent cutor, obtain the testator's assets at an undervalue; concert, however, with the

a breach of trust

of personal assets

⁽g) Nesbitt v. Tredennick, 1 Ba. & Beat. 46.

⁽k) Keane v. Roberts, 4 Mad. 357; Mead v. Lord Orrery, 3 Atk. 239.

⁽i) M'Leod v. Drummond, 14 Ves. 360; Dickensen v. Lockycr, 4 Ves. 42; Nugent v. Giffard, 2 Ves. Senr. 269; S. C. 1 Atk. 463.

executor, will in or, by collusion with the purchaser, the real value volve a purchathe assets:

One material consideration. in such cases, may be, whether the assets were transferred by the executor in discharge of a previous debt of his own:

ser, or pawnee, of be applied by the executor for his own behoof; or in extinguishing his own private debt; or in any other manner contrary to his duty as executor; such concert will involve the purchaser, or pawnee. and make him liable for the full value (j). timating the honesty of a transaction of the kind under consideration, one essential ground of distinction is, whether the assets have been applied by the executor to the satisfaction of an antecedent private debt of his own; or whether he assigned them in discharge of, or pledged them as a security for, an advance made to him at the time: for, undoubtedly, suspicion of fraud must always arise, where a party, having a debt previously due to him from an executor, takes, in satisfaction of that debt, the assets which he knows belong to the executor only in that character (k): and the suspicion will, of course, be strongly corroborated, if the alience know, at the time, that debts of the tes-And although tator remain unpaid (l). But when a man is appresumption will plied to for a present loan of money, there is no obvious motive for his making the advance with a view to fraud on the testator's estate: money. sets, was advance therefore, advanced at the time of the delivery, or pledge of the assets, is, prima facie, to be consid-

ered as advanced to the executor for the purpose

the prima facie be, that, money advanced at the time of the delivery of the ased for the purpose of paying the testator's debts;

of

⁽j) Scott v. Tyler, 2 Dick. 725; Hill v. Simpson, 7 Ves. 166, 169,

⁽k) M'Leod v. Drummond, 14 Ves. 362.

⁽¹⁾ Crane v. Drake, 2 Vern. 616; Andrew v. Wrigley, 4 Br. 137; Nugent v. Gifford, 1 Atk. 464; Taylor v. Hawkins, 8 Ves. 213.

of paying the testator's debts (m). Still, this rea-still, this presoning is not, in every case, conclusive; if an executor pledge the property of his testator to a banker, in consideration of a loan to be then made: should the circumstances shew, that, the banker knew the money was not intended to be applied conformably to the duty of the executor, the Court of Chancery will examine, whether that is not an inequitable transaction, with reference to persons entitled to the testator's property (n).

The balance claimed by a guardian from his ward can never be ascertained in a Court of Law; claimed by a guardian from his because it depends upon principles peculiar to a ward, can never be ascertained, Court of Equity; and in order to induce the Court satisfactorily, in a of Chancery to restrain an action at Law brought by a guardian against his ward, it is enough to state the relation in which the parties stand to each other. An unbroken continuance of the management of the property by the guardian, after guardian has continued in the the ward has attained majority, is, in effect, a con-management of tinuance of the guardianship, as to the property: the ward has atand the same principles must be applied to the age; accounts subsequent, as to the accounts during the period of minority (o). And this jealous watch- or even when fulness of transactions which, from the relation be-the connexion has ceased, and tween the parties, are so open to fraud; has been the accounts have been settled; extended to cases where all accounts were previ-they may be ously settled, and the connexion was at an end;

Court of Law.

Where the the property after tained his full

the connexion

⁽m) M'Leod v. Drummond, 17 Ves. 155.

⁽n) M'Leod v. Drummond, 17 Ves. 170; Adair v. Shaw, 1 Sch. & Lef. 262.

⁽o) Mellish v. Mellish, 1 Sim. & Stu. 145; Morgan v. Morgan, 1 Atk. 488; Goddard v. Carlisle, 9 Price, 188.

the transactions impeached appearing to have grown out of the influence arising from the former relation (p).

A guardian must not change

A guardian must not change the nature of his must not change the nature of his ward's property, without the leave of the Court ward's property. of Chancery (q): and, though an infant cannot bring a bill for an account during his minority, a third person may, on his behalf (r).

Whatever part of a testator's ecutor has got possession of he ed as having received and executor.

An executor will not be permitted, in a Court or a restator's property an ex- of Equity, to set up the title of the heir at law, as between himself and the personal representatives must be consider of his testator. Whatever part of the testator's property he has got possession of, he must be considered as having received it qua executor. all events, he cannot assign his uncertainty whether a part of the property be real or personal, as a ground for declining to set forth, in answer to a bill by the personal representatives, what he has done with the property. And as, in a due course who has paid le of administration, debts are to be paid before legacies; an executor, or administrator, who has by alleging that paid legacies, cannot, in answer to an application debts are unpaid: to have the funds brought into Court, be suffered to allege, that, debts are unpaid (s). Even where the argument from payment of legacies out of due course

An executor who has paid lesist bringing the funds into Court,

nor, after the time when the debts ought to

> (p) Wright v. Proud, 13 Ves. 138; Wood v. Downes, 18 Ves. 127; Hatch v. Hatch, 9 Ves. 296.

> (q) Earl of Winchelsea v. Norcliff, 2 Freem. 96; (see the extract from Reg. Lib. annexed to the 2d edit.); Inwood v.

Twyne, 2 Eden, 153.

(r) Eyre v. Countess of Shaftesbury, 2 P. Wms. 119; Lord Dudley's case, cited 2 Ves. Senr. 484; Ware v. Polhill, 11 Ves. 277.

(s) Freeman v. Fairlie, & Meriv. 35, 38.

course does not arise, still, after the time has claps- have been paid; ed in which all the testator's debts ought to have whether legacies have been paid heen paid, an allegation, by the executor, that, out of due course, some of the debts are unsettled, will not enable him to resist payment into Court of the assets in his hands. To admit such an argument would be to allow him to take advantage of his own fraud, or negligence (t). Laches will equally be discountenanced in any creditor of a testator; if such creditor lie by for years, and forbear to make his de-may oust, or at any rate postpone mand when all the other debts were paid, he may still further, the thereby enable the executor to obtain fictitious creditor. credit, and by so doing postpone his own claims: For instance, if, under such circumstances, a renewalof a lease of the testator's be procured in the name of the executor, and a third person, in reliance on the apparent property in such lease, advance money to the executor, the lease may be taken in execution, for this, the executor's own, debt: and the creditor of the testator will have no sufficient equity in his favor to sustain an injunction (n).

Laches on the claims of such

When an executor, instead of keeping distinct. An executor accounts of his testator's property, as was his keeping distinct bounden duty, has thought fit to mix up the ac- accounts of his testator's propercounts with his own private concerns; whatever ty, has mixed up those accounts inconvenience may arise from the disclosure of the with his private latter, he must submit to it, as the natural result must submit to of his own fraud, or folly; and cannot take advan- the disclosure of the latter: tage of his own wrong, to protect himself from

who, instead of

producing

⁽t) Mortlock v. Leathes, 2 Meriv. 491; Gilpin v. Lady Southampton, 18 Ves. 470; Eagleton & Coventry v. King-

ston, 8 Ves. 467: see, also. Cranfurd v. Attorney General, 7 Price, 76.

⁽u) Ray v. Ray, Cooper, 268.

pers of an executor have allowed him to place his accounts as executor in the general partnership books; they cannot withtion of books.

producing the original accounts, as they stand. with whatever private transactions he may have and, if the part- intermingled them. And if the partners of an executor have permitted him to place his accounts as executor in the general partnership books; it seems, they cannot withhold the free inspection of the books, for the purpose of investigating the acthey cannot with hold an inspect counts of the executorship: certainly, they cannot do so when the executor's answer admits, that. he may have lent to the partnership part of testator's estate, at interest; and that the partners have been dealing with such trust property (w).

An executor by payments to simple contract creditors of his testator, makes himself answerable, generally speaking, for payment of debts of a higher nature.

If an executor, or administrator, venture, prematurely, to pay creditors upon simple contracts. (who cannot be compelled to refund (x),) he, thereby, voluntarily takes upon himself all responsibility-to the extent at least of such payments-both as to the sufficiency and security of the assets for the discharge of debts of a higher nature; and he can have no relief in Equity against a bond debt, although he had no notice thereof when he made such hasty payment; unless he was induced to pay away the assets by any fraud on the part of the bond-creditor (y): or, perhaps, where the assets were, originally, amply sufficient to answer all demands; but, subsequently to payment of simple contract debts, have perished by inevitable accident (z).

Quare, whether an executor It has been a subject of much discussion, whether

Prec. in Cha. 535.

(z) Croft v. Lindsey, 2 Freem. 1.

⁽n) S. C. ibid. p. 43.

⁽x) Hodges v. Warrington,

² Ventr. 360.

⁽y) Greenwood v. Brudnish,

ther an executor is bound to discharge legacies, is bound to diswhilst there is a covenant of his testator's out-whilst there is a standing; but which has not been, and possibly covenant of his testator's outnever may be, broken. On the one hand, if the standing; but executor were allowed to retain the assets, as a been, and possibly never may provision for this doubtful contingency, the le- be, broken. gatees might, in many cases, be unnecessarily, and therefore fraudulently, kept out of their money. On the other hand, injustice would plainly be done to the executor, if he were compellable to pay the this subject examined: legacies, but remained liable to be charged with a devastavit for so doing, should the covenant of his testator, at any subsequent period, be broken. an early case (a), (on a suit by executors for prohibition to the Ecclesiastical Court, to prevent an award of payment to legatees,) it was held, by a majority of the Court of K. B. that, an outstanding obligation, not forfeited, was no good plea to a demand of a legacy. Fenner, J., however, doubted this. Lord Coke took this distinction:—when Distinction the obligation is for payment of a less sum at a Coke; day to come, it will be a good plea against the legatee before the day; for it is a duty maintenant which the condition contains. But, where the condition is for the performance of covenants, or to do a collateral thing; there, until it be forfeited, it is not any plea against a legatee; for, peradventure, it will never be forfeited, and may lie in perpetuum; and no wills could be performed if such objections availed. In this case, consultation was awarded. In the next year, on an action of debt.

The cases on

(a) Nector v. Gennet, Cro. Eliz. 467; S. C. Owen, 72.

debt, brought against the defendant as executor; the Judges appear to have been divided in opinion as to the validity of a plea, that, the testator was bound in a statute staple in the sum of £1000, conditioned for performance of covenants, and that the defendant had in his hands mihil ultra. Fenner, J., held the plea to be "good without question:" but Gawdie, J., as strongly denied this: and the Court is not stated to have come to any decision (b). Half a century later, the same question as in Nector v. Gennet was again argued thrice, before the Court of K. B. (c); when Roll, J., intimated, that, it would be a greater inconvenience to enable a testator to defeat, by his will, all his own contingent covenants; than to throw some additional obstacles in the way of the performance of such will: to which it was answered, that, if the testator intended a fraud upon his covenant, it was in his power to effect it, by giving away his goods in his lifetime. This answer was not a very conclusive one; as a man is much less likely to strip himself of property, than to give it as wrong direction after his death: and, at all events, the impossibility of preventing one mode of fraud, affords no sound reason for permitting another. The judgment in the case just cited, (if judgment was ever given,) is not reported, by either Styles or Aleyn; but, by Vernon's note to Luncey v. Fairchild (d), it seems, that, the decision was in favor of

⁽b) Woodcock v. Herne, 34, 57, 73; S. C. Aleyn, 38. Goldsborough, 142. (d) 2 Vern. 101.

⁽c) Eeles v. Lambert, Styles,

of an immediate administration of the assets. Lord Hardwicke, when a similar case came before him, held, that, although whilst it was doubt- Lord Coke's disful whether the condition of a testator's bond, as tinction appropriate to payment surety for performance of covenants, remained un- of simple contract debts; broken, and whilst it consequently was uncertain that any debt would ever arise in respect of such bond; payment by the executor of the testator's simple contract debts would be good: yet, that, not to payment of this rule did not extend to legacies (e).

In this doubtful state of the decisions in our own Courts, it has been found expedient to recur to the doctrine of our Courts, upon this principles of the civil Law:—a code which, though subject, seems to be, that, a legatee it has been objected to, by able constitutional law-shall receive his yers, as leaving too much to arbitrary discretion; upon giving seis yet replete with the accumulated stores of col- if a better claim lected learning. By the civil Law, a legatary is directed to receive his testator's bounty, upon giving security to make restitution if a better claim should ultimately be established (f). This principle has been adopted by our own Legislature, and into the statute incorporated into the statute of distributions (g): and, in a modern case, Sir William Grant made an and an express analogous decree; directing a legacy to be paid, the subject, by upon the executors receiving a sufficient indemni- Sir William Grant, could ty, from the legatee, to secure them, in case their hardly be intestator's bond should subsequently be forfeited (k). pugned by an in-

Lord Hardwicke held, that,

legacies.

The present testator's bounty, curity to refund, be established:

This principle is incorporated of distributions:

decree made on tended to be im-

⁽e) Hawkins v. Day, Ambl. 161: and stated from Reg. Lib. in 8 Meriv. 555.

⁽f) As stated in Nector v. Gennet, ubi suprà: and see, Dig. lib. 5, tit. 8, e. 5; lib. 35,

tit. 2, s. 73; lib. 39, tit. 2, s. 7.

⁽g) Stat. 22 & 23 Car. 2, chap. 10, s. 8.

⁽h) Simmons v. Bolland, 3 Meriv. 554.

tion, which shortly afterwards fell from the same distinguished Judge.

cidental observa. It is true, that, the same Judge, on another occasion, observed, "the Court, sometimes, makes provision for an unascertained debt; as, for instance, where it refuses to make distribution of a testator's estate among residuary legatees, if apprised, that, there are existing claims to which the executors may eventually become liable, in respect of covenants which their testator has entered into (i)." this obiter dictum was pronounced only four days subsequent to the judgment in Simmons v. Bolland, it is not to be supposed, that, Sir Wm. Grant intended to impugn his own, so recent, decree: His Honor must have meant, that, the Court would not order distribution. unless sufficient indemnity was given to the executors; or, he must have taken a distinction between particular and residuary legatees: a distinction which, in the instance under discussion, would be an unsatisfactory one; and open to all the objections, which have been before stated, that, thereby the residuary interest might be locked up in perpetuum. There is no reason to believe, that, Sir Wm. Grant meant to give the high sanction of his opinion in favor of any such doctrine.

An executor cannot protect himself from paying assets into Court, by alleging that he has lent them on personal security.

An executor who admits that he has possessed his testator's property, cannot protect himself from paying the amount into Court, by alleging an improper application of it (k): and to lay out the money on personal security is an improper risk; the parties interested in the assets are entitled to have the

⁽i) Antrobus v. Davidson, 3 (k) Vigrass v. Binfield, 3 Meriv. 581. Mad. 63. See, ante, p. 437.

the security of the Court (1); or to such security as the Court may direct, when an appropriation of stock would not, with certainty, meet the justice of the case (m). If a strong case of fraud, or of imminent danger to property, be charged by a obtained before legatee's bill against an executor; and if such answer. charge be also supported by affidavit; a receiver may be obtained on motion, before answer (n). And where an administrator, in breach of the bond Use of adminalways given upon taking administration, has not delivered in a "true and perfect inventory of all the goods, chattels, and credits of the intestate," the bond may be assigned to any creditor of the intestate, who may put the same in suit at Law; and will be restrained by injunction in Equity only upon condition, that, the administrator shall confess judgment, which shall stand as security for all the creditor's costs, both at Law and in Equity, and also for payment of his principal and interest, so far as the assets of the intestate will extend (o).

A receiver of the assets may be

It is to be observed, that, when a Court of Equity has taken the management of assets from for acts done unan executor, it at the same time relieves him from der the direction of the Court: responsibility; and will not permit him to be charged for what has been done in pursuance of

its

⁽¹⁾ Wilkes v. Steward, Coop. 8; Green v. Pigott, 1 Br. 105; Carey v. Askew, 1 Cox, 244: see, ante, pp. 437, 438.

⁽m) Webber v. Webber, 1 Sim. & Stu. 313.

⁽n) Middleton v. Dodswell,

¹³ Ves. 268; Anonym. 12 Ves. 5; Scott v. Becher, 4 Price,

⁽o) Greerside v. Benson, 3 Atk. 252; Thomas v. Archbishop of Canterbury, 1 Cox, 899.

may be obliged of money recovered by decree. should that decree be reversed.

but, an executor its directions (p). But where an executor has reto refund a sum covered a sum of money by decree, should that decree be reversed, on an appeal brought without laches, the executor must refund the money; although he may have paid the amount away in discharge of his testator's debts: The case would be otherwise, if there had been delay in bringing the appeal; the appellant standing by whilst the executor paid away the money, and thus drawing him into a snare (q).

Co-executors. by joining, unnecessarily, in receipts for pay-ments made to ber, may incur

But, when an executor has not he does not become responsible, merely by joining in a receipt.

Co-executors are not obliged to join in receipts. for payments made in respect of their testator's estate; any one of them can give a sufficient disone of their num-charge. If, therefore, all choose to join, the old joint responsibirule was, to consider such act as tantamount to an acknowledgment of joint responsibility for the sums so paid (r). This rule has been, occasionally, acted in the trust, relaxed (s); and though it has been repeatedly regretted (t), and by no Judge more frequently and energetically than by Lord Eldon, that, such relaxation ever was admitted; yet his Lordship, in a modern case, stated, that, it may now be laid down, that, although one executor has joined in a receipt, yet, whether he is liable shall depend on his acting.

- (p) Farrell v. Smith, 2 Ball & Beat. 342; Kenyon v. Worthington, 2 Dick. 669; Perry v. Phelips, 10 Ves. 40.
- (q) Pooley v. Ray, 1 P. Wms. 357; Hercy v. Dinwoody, 2 Ves. Junr. 93.
- (r) Brice v. Stokes, 11 Ves. 324; Chambers v. Minchin, 7 Ves. 198; Doyle v. Blake, 2

Sch. & Lef. 242.

- (s) Harden v. Parsons, 1 Eden, 148; Westley v. Clarke, ibid. 360; Hovey v. Blakeman, 4 Ves. 608.
- (t) Sadler v. Hobbs, 2 Br. 117; Chambers v. Minchin, 7 Ves. 198; Lord Shipbrook v. Lord Hinchinbrook, 16 Ves. 479.



ing (u). Lord Eldon, however, at the same time added, that, the old rule, -by which joining was considered as acting,—was a plain and simple one; but that, in the distinctions made, since the rule that joining alone does not impose responsibility, scarcely two Judges agree. Upon a principle analogous to the old rule as to receipts, it has been decided, at the sole disthat, if one executor in trust, join in a transfer of posal of his co-executor, who stock, or do any other act placing the funds at misapplies them; the sole disposal of his co-executor, upon a repressible. sentation, made by him, that, the money is required for payment of the testator's debts; though the money, in consequence of such negligent act, may come to the hands of one executor only, yet, the other, by joining in such transfer, will have made himself responsible, so far as the proceeds may have been misapplied; but no farther, even although the fraudulent executor may, from a different source, have possessed other funds, which might have been applicable, but which he wasted(w).

If one executor

Whilst the right to probate is under litigation Whilst probate in the Ecclesiastical Court, as that Court may aption, circumstantion, circums point an administrator pendente lite, this circum- ces may require stance may, in ordinary cases, possibly be a good of a Court of Equity, to secure objection against the interposition of the Court the property. of Chancery: but, wherever fraud stands in the way, so as to prevent the Ecclesiastical Court from acting with effect, there the jurisdiction of Chancery.

the interference

⁽u) Walker v. Symonds, 3 Swanst. 64; and see Lang ford v. Gascoyne, 11 Ves. 335.

Hinchinbrook, I1 Ves. 253, 16 Ves. 478; Langford v. Gascoune, 11 Ves. 335; Underwood

v. Stevens, 1 Meriv. 717. (w) Lord Shipbrook v. Lord

Chancery, indisputably, arises. The object of the suit may be to delay probate, with the intention of keeping, meantime, the property in hands which ought not to retain it: or, it may be proper that a receiver should be appointed, which is a direction the Ecclesiastical Court cannot give, until the suit for probate is finally determined; and that suit may be the subject of appeal, which, even without intention of delay, might necessarily consume much time; during which the property might be wasted (x).

Where evidence is admitted, to support, or repel, an executor's claim to a beneficial interest in his testator's assets.

The right of an executor to a beneficial interest in the assets of his testator, not expressly disposed of, may be excluded, not only by a plain declaration of trust in the will; but, by circumstances, indicated by the will; in support of which, parol evidence may be given, to raise a presumption of trust; as, on the other hand, the executor may adduce evidence to repel such presumption. where a conclusive intention is evident on the face of the will, parol evidence cannot be let in, on either side (y). The proposition, sometimes alleged, neficially, what that, the appointment of an executor gives him meant to dispose every thing not disposed of, is not correct. the strongest way of putting it, he can only take what the testator does not mean to dispose of. In the

An executor cannot take, bethe testator

- (x) Atkinson v. Henshaw, 2 Ves. & Bea. 93, 96; Ball v. Oliver, 2 Ves. & Bea. 99; Jones v. Frost, 3 Mad. 8; Rutherford v. Douglas, in note to 1 Sim. & Stu. 112; Richards v. Chave, 12 Ves. 464.
 - (y) Gladding v. Yapp, 5

Mad. 59; Lynn v. Beaver, 1 Turn. & Russ. 68; Langham v. Sandford, 2 Meriv. 17; Giraud v. Hanbury, 2 Meriv. 153; Pratt v. Sladden, 14 Ves. 197; Walton v. Walton, 14 Ves. 322; Rachfield v. Careless, 2 P. Wms. the case of a lapse, for instance, though not dis- though the inposed of, the executor would not take the lapsed tion may fail. bequest. So, if a testator appoint an executor in trust, but omit to express the object of such trust, in that case, the executor will not, by virtue of his office, take beneficially (x). And where a testator leaves a palpably unfinished clause (a); or even where clause in a will may exclude the his will closes with an "&c.," this will be understood executors: as an indication, that, he intended a further disposition, in exclusion of the claims of his execu-But, no such inference can be drawn from the mere circumstance, that, a considerable space is left blank, between the last legacy given by a will, and the testator's signature (c). Whatever beneficial interest in the residue of a testator's property, two executors, as such, are entitled to; if the property be not reduced into possession before the death of one executor, the whole interest will survive to the other (d). A legacy to one but not a legacy of several executors; or unequal legacies to more executors, or unthan one, will not exclude the legal title, which the equal legacies to more than one. executors, as such, have to a beneficial interest in the property of their testator, not disposed of to others; by giving unequal legacies, the testator may have only intended a preference pro tanto (e).

An unfinished

- (z) Dawson v. Clarke, 18 Ves. 254, 255; Mence v. Mence, 18 Ves. 351; Urquhart v. King, 7 Ves. 228.
- (a) Knewell v. Gardiner, Gilb. Eq. Rep. 184; Lord North v. Purdon, 2 Ves. Senr. 496.
- (b) Bishop of Cloyne v. Young, 2 Ves. Senr. 91, 99;
- Mordaunt v. Hussey, 4Ves. 118. (c) White v. Williams, 3 Ves. & Bea. 75.
- (d) S. C. ibid. Jackson v. Jackson, 9 Ves. 595; Crooke v. De Vandes, 9 Ves. 204; and see a good reason assigned, at the close of the report of Cox v. Queenlock, 2 Freem. 140.
 - (e) Rawlings v. Jennings, 13

Generally, where one executor is, by the gift of a legacy, a trustee as to the residue, the other executors are also trustees.

But. wherever one executor is, by the gift of a legacy expressly for his care and trouble, clearly a trustee as to the residue: the other executors are. generally, also trustees: for, since if they take at all, quà executors, they take jointly, they must, without special circumstances, all be trustees, or all take the residue beneficially (f). Sir William Grant, however, has observed, that, it is not impossible for a testator so to divide the executorship as to give to one the office, to the other the benefit (g): and, an infant, being a co-executor, was, accordingly, determined to take the residue beneficially; though the other executor was clearly a trustee. The learned Judge last named has assigned (what, ther a reversionary mind, seem very cogent) reasons, ary interest will to an ordinary mind, seem very cogent) reasons, exclude an exe- for holding, that, a reversionary interest, after a life interest, would exclude an executor; quite as clearly as a direct and immediate legacy (h). Lord Eldon, however, without overruling, has thrown Legacies to the some doubt on this decision (i). But, it is now quite undisputed, that, legacies to the next of kin from the residue. do not exclude them from the residue (k).

Quære, whecutor.

next of kin do not exclude them

Under a direction, that, an estate devised to infants shall be sold, without

Where an estate has been devised to infants. a direction in the will, that, in case a certain contingent event should happen, the estate shall be sold, without

Ves. 46; Langham v. Sandford, 2 Meriv. 22, 17; Griffiths v. Hamilton, 12 Ves. 309.

(f) Griffiths v. Hamilton, 12 Ves. 308; Williams v. Jones, 10 Ves. 81; Sadler v. Turner, 8 Ves. 623; White v. Evans, 4 Ves. 22.

(g) Williams v. Jones, 10

Ves. 81.

- (h) Seley v. Wood, 10 Ves. 75.
- (i) Lynn v. Beaver, 1 Turn. & Russ. 69.
- (k) Griffiths v. Hamilton, 12 Ves. 309; Seley v. Wood, ubi suprà; Clennell v. Lewthwaite, 2 Ves. Junr. 472.

without saying by whom, will not give a power of saying by whom, sale, by implication, to the executors: should the have no power to contingency designated arise whilst the devisees sell: still continue minors, the sale must be suspended till they attain their legal majority (1). To enable such a power executors to sell, the power must either be express-ly given, or nely given to them, or necessarily be implied from cessarily implied. the produce being to pass through their hands in the execution of their office; as in payment of Where, indeed, the legal Where the heir debts and legacies (m). estate has descended upon the heir at law, he may ordered to effect be directed to effect the sale, and distribute the the sale. produce, according to the intent of the testator(n).

must be express-

The presumption of Law is, that, a testator's Interest on lepersonal estate may be got in within a year; and, end of the first though there may be many cases in which no dili- year after the testator's death: gence could actually reduce the property into possession at the end of a year from the testator's death; yet, constructive receipt by the executors is held equivalent to actual receipt, for the purpose of giving legatees a right to interest; where the testator has not excluded the rule of the Court. by plainly indicating an intention inconsistent therewith (o). As a legacy, for the payment of which no other period is assigned by the will, is not due till the end of a year after the testator's death:

(1) Patton v. Randall, 1 Jac. & Walk. 196.

Freem. 136.

(m) Bentham v. Wiltshire, 4 Mad. 49.

(o) Wood v. Penoyre, 13 Ves. 334; Gaskell'v. Harman, 11 Ves. 498; Elwin v. Elwin,

8 Ves. 553. (n) Locton v. Locton, 2

legacy of a corpus is an immediate gift, passing both the fund and its produce:

death (p); and as interest can only be claimed for non-payment of the legacy by the executor when due: it is an undisputed general rule, that, a legacy carries interest only from the expiration of the But, a specific time just specified. That general rule, however, has exceptions (q); a specific legacy of a corpus passes an immediate gift of the fund, with all its produce, from the death of the testator (r); and the executor must detain neither. Another exception arises where a legacy is given to the infant child of the testator. The foundations of this latter exception, it has been said, are, the natural obligation of the parent to provide for his child. and the incompetence of the child to give a discharge.

gacy is given to mediately payable:

and where a le- A Court of Equity, therefore, according to the gacy is given to an infant child of authority cited, concludes that the parent has the testator, in-terest may be imspect of this inability to give a discharge, and infers an intention that interest shall be paid immediately (s). A more obvious reason, perhaps, is that usually assigned; namely, the helpless imbecility of the infant legatee, and its incapacity to That this last is the true support itself (t). ground, may be concluded, from the decisions which have established, that, it is only in cases where

(s) Raven v. Waite, ubi suprà; Crickett v. Dolby, 3 Ves.

Atk. 716; Gibson v. Bott, 7

Vės. 96.

(p) Hearle v. Greenbank, 3

⁽q) Raven v. Waite, 1 Swanst.

⁽r) S. C. Kirby v. Potter, 4 Ves. 751; Barrington v. Tristram, 6 Ves. 349.

⁽t) Loundes v. Loundes, 15 Ves. 304; Heath v. Perry, 3 Atk. 102; Mitchell v. Bower, 5 Ves. 287.

where a child is otherwise unprovided for, that the if the child be exception operates: when a father gives a legacy vided for. to a child, it will, indeed, (whether it be an absolutely vested legacy, or not,) carry interest from the death of the testator, as a maintenance for the child, where no other fund is applicable for such maintenance (u); but where other means of support are provided for the child, then, if the legacy be payable at a future day, it will not carry interest until the day of payment comes, more than in the case of a legacy to a perfect stranger (v): and the executor will only do his duty to the testator's general estate by disallowing any claim to interest before that period (w). A possible case may occur, in which a testator, having expressly provided lean to the inmaintenance up to a certain period, has left a ference, that a parent did not inchasm unprovided for; thus, a father may have tend his child to be without supgiven a legacy to a daughter, payable at her age of port. twenty-one years, and have directed maintenance to be allowed to her till her majority, or marriage, should she marry at eighteen; in such a doubtful case as to the intention, a Court of Equity will lean to the inference, that, the father did not mean his child should have nothing in the interval between her marriage, and the period when the legacy was payable; and reasonable maintenance will be allowed (x).

In a doubtful

The

⁽u) Cary v. Askew, 1 Cox, 244; Harvey v. Harvey, 2 P. Wms. 22.

⁽v) Wynch v. Wynch, 1 Cox, 435; Ellis v. Ellis, 1 Sch. & Lef. 5; Heath v. Perry, ubi

suprà; Hearle v. Greenbank, 3 Atk. 718.

⁽w) Tyrrell v. Tyrrell, 4 Ves. 5.

⁽x) Chambers v. Goldwin, 11 Ves. 2.

Interest on a legacy not given an illegitimate child, before the arrives:

The general rule as to non-payment of interest to an adult, or to upon a legacy, before such legacy becomes due, must not be broken in upon by an exception in time of payment favor of an adult legatee, however nearly related to the testator (y); and, a fortiori, not in favor of illegitimate children (2), (who in legal contemplation are mere strangers (a), unless it can be collected, as a necessary inference from the whole will, that, the testator intended to give interest (b). Even in the case of a grandchild, an executor must not take upon himself to pay interest upon a legacy, by way of maintenance, when it is not expressly provided by the will: for, though, it has been said, Courts of Equity will struggle in favor of the grandchild (c); yet, it seems, there must be something more than the mere gift of a legacy, something indicating that the testator put himself in loco parentis, to justify a Court in decreeing pay-

or to an infant grandchild, un-less the testator has put himself in loco parentis.

out of a legacy, events, is given over.

ment of interest on such legacy, for his mainte-No maintenance nance (d). It would be a still greater excess of an out of a legacy, which, in certain executor's authority, if he were to pay interest, by way of maintenance, upon a legacy to his testator's grandchildren, when such legacy is not given absolutely, and in all events; but, subject to certain contingencies, upon which it is bequeathed over: in

- (y) Raven v. Waite, Swanst. 558.
- (z) Perry v. Whitehead, 6 Ves. 547.
- (a) Lowndes v. Lowndes, 15 Ves. 804.
- (b) Beckford v. Tobin, 1 Ves. Senr. 310; Ellis v. Ellis, 1 Sch. & Lef. 6; Raven v.

Waite, ubi suprà.

- (c) Crickett v. Dolby, 3 Ves. 12; Greenwell v. Greenwell, 5 Ves. 194; Collis v. Blackburne, 9 Ves. 470.
- (d) Perry v. Whitehead, 6 Ves. 547; Rawlins v. Goldtrap, 5 Ves. 443; Hill v. Hill, 3. Ves. & Bea. 186.

such case, even a Court of Equity would not hold itself competent to decree interest (e). In the Even in favor most favored case, that of children,—if the words words of the will of the will do not authorize the application of in- do not authorize the application of terest to the maintenance of infant legatees, a interest for main-Court of Equity never goes farther than to say, will (in general) that, if it can collect before it all the individuals der, unless all the who may be entitled to the fund, so as to make to may become eneach a compensation for taking from him part, it titled are before the Court. will grant an allowance for maintenance (f); or, where there is no gift over, and all the children of this rule. a family are to take equally, and under the same limitation; there, although other children may posbly come in esse after the order made, yet, all the children, born or to be born, will be held to have a common interest, and, therefore, the interest of the fund, as far as it may be required, will be applicable to maintenance (g). But, if the will contain successive limitations, under which persons not in being may become entitled, it is not sufficient that all the parties then living, presumptively entitled, are before the Court; for none of the living may be the parties eventually entitled to the property. such a case, an order for maintenance might be, in effect, to give to one person the property of another (h). Where all the possible legatees over are in esse and sui juris, there, of course, if they con-

tenance, Equity not make the orindividuals who

⁽e) Lomax v. Lomax, 11. Ves. 48; Errington v. Chapman, 12 Ves. 25.

⁽f) Errat v. Barlow, 14 Ves. 203; Marshall v. Holloway, 2 Swanst. 436.

⁽g) Errat v. Barlow, 14 Ves. 204; Haley v. Bannister, 4 Mad. 280.

⁽h) Marshall v. Holloway, ubi suprà; Ex parte Kebble, 11 Ves. 606.

sent, no difficulty will arise in obtaining an allowance for maintenance (i), And, where it is to be collected from any part of the will, that, the testator intended maintenance should be paid; mere general expressions, in a particular proviso, will not defeat that intention (k). Sometimes. an intent's for-tune applied for (but very rarely,) maintenance will be allowed out of the principal of an infant's fortune. purpose of putting a child out in life, the principal is more frequently applied (1): and, in proper cases, the executor may safely do this without an application to the Court (m).

Principal of his benefit.

A wife not entitled to interest before the legacy is payable.

An executor in trust not usually sation for his trouble:

There is no exception admitted, in favor of the testator's wife, to the general rule, that, a legacy does not bear interest before it is payable (n).

Generally speaking, an executor in trust cannot allowed compen- claim compensation for personal trouble and loss of time in the performance of trusts under a will, however onerous the duties: if the nature of the trust be such as to make a compensation proper, a special case ought, regularly, to be made to a Court of Equity, before the trust is accepted (o). There is, however, high authority for making a retrospective allowance to an executor, as a compensation

- (i) Fairman v. Green, 10 Ves. 48; Errat v. Barlow, 14 Ves. 203.
- (k) Lyddon v. Lyddon, 14 Ves. 567, citing, Hall v. Carter, 2 Atk. 358.
- (l) Walker v. Wetherell, 6 Ves. 474; Swinnock v. Crisp, 2 Freem. 78; Ex parte Green, Mad. 90.
- 1 Jac. & Walk. 253; Harvey v. Harvey, 2 P. Wms. 22.
- (m) Lee v. Brown, 4 Ves. 369.
- (n) Stent v. Robinson, 12 Ves. 461; Raven v. Waite, 1 Swanst. 559.
 - (o) Brocksop v. Barnes, 5

sation for his labor and time, employed in the execution of the trusts of his testator's will (p). And an executor who has acted as such in India, but, an executor on passing his accounts in the Court of Chancery India allowed here, will be allowed commission upon his pay-commission: ments and receipts, according to the practice in India(q): when no legacy has been given to such executor (r). But this is an exception to the general a factor, or a surrule; if a person, who has been constantly in the made executor, habit of acting as factor during the life of his prin-cannot claim commission. cipal, be appointed executor, he cannot claim commission money as factor, for business done after he accepted that office, or, at any rate, only in respect of goods consigned to him before the testator's death (s). An executor, who is also a surviving partner of his testator, can claim no allowance for his management of the co-partnership trade subsequently to the death of the testator (t).

who has acted in

The personal estate of a party who has contracted a debt by mortgage, is applicable to its discharge, in favor either of the heir, or the devisee of the mortgaged estate (u); provided other creditors would not, by such an arrangement, be deprived of their just debts (w). But, notwithstanding this right of the heir, or devisee, if either of devisee, induce to

them.

- (p) Marshall v. Holloway, 2 Swanst. 453.
- (q) Chetham v. Lord Audley, 4 Ves. 74.
- (r) S. C. p. 75; Freeman v. Fairlie, 3 Meriv. 28.
- (s) Scattergood v. Harrison, Moseley, 130.
- (t) Burden v. Burden, 1 Ves. & Bea. 172.
- (u) Robinson v. Gee, 1 Ves. Senr. 252.
- (w) Galton v. Hancock, 2 Atk. 431; Manning v. Spooner, 3 Ves. 118.

tribution.

employ the per- them, by even a parol assurance that he will not payment of lega- raise the claim, induce the executor to pay legacies, neither can afterwards assert cies; it would be a fraud, which could hope for a claim conflicting with that disor devisee were afterwards to call on the executor to exonerate the real estate, out of the personal The claim would be barred: not only if the assets had been distributed on the faith of such an engagement previously made; but even if the distribution had merely received the subsequent approbation of the heir or devisee (x).

In what cases an executor must title him to a legacy:

Legacies expressly given to executors, in considact as such to en- eration of the care and trouble which may be required in the execution of the testator's will, of course, cannot be claimed, where the duties, with which they were connected, have been renounced (y). And, if a legacy be given to a man as executor, whether it is expressed to be for care and pains, or not, he must, in order to entitle himself to the legacy, clothe himself with the character of executor(x). The burthen of proof, that a legacy was intended for an executor in a distinct character, rests with him: the prima facie presumption and in what in is, that, it is given to him as executor (a). be entitled to the where a legacy is given, not merely in contemplalegacy before he tion of future services, but also, in token of regard, have not refused and no actual laches, by refusing or neglecting to

stances he may has acted, if he to accept the trusts of the will.

accept

⁽x) Clinton v. Hooper, 1 Ves. Junr. 185.

⁽y) Freeman v, Fairlie, 2 Meriv. 31; Humberston v. Humberston, 1 P. Wms. 333.

⁽z) Harrison v. Rowley, 4 Ves. 216; Read v. Deraynes, 3 Br. 95.

⁽a) Stackpoole v. Howell, 13 Ves. 421.

accept the trusts of the testator's will, is made out, the legacy cannot be withheld, upon an apprehension of a subsequent breach of duty (b). legacy, given in such terms as those last stated, cannot possibly be forfeited by the death of the executor before he has acted, to any but a very trifling extent, in the execution of the will: or, it is presumable, even although he had not acted at all, if he had no fair opportunity of doing so, but had not manifested any intention to renounce the trust(c).

A debt due by an executor to the estate of his testator forms part of such testator's assets; for que from an exethe same plain reason upon which an executor, or tator's estate: and vice versa. administrator, who is a creditor, may retain; namely, because he cannot sue himself(d). right is not prejudiced by the infancy, or lunacy, of the party entitled to administration: a retainer of what is due to him will be valid, notwithstanding that, on account of his incapacity, administration has been granted to another (e).

tator's debtors.

Rule as to debts due from an exe-

Under special circumstances, as, for instance, Whenacreditor when an executor becomes insolvent, or colludes may prosecute a suit against a teswith persons indebted to his testator's estate, a creditor of the testator's may be allowed to prosecute a suit against the debtors (f).

Notwithstanding

- (b) Brydges v. Wotton, 1 Ves. & Bea. 134.
- (c) Harrison v. Rowley, 4 Ves. 215; Parsons v. Saffery, 9 Price, 583.
- (d) Simmons v. Gutteridge, 13 Ves. 264; Berry v. Usher, 11 Ves. 90; Phillips v. Phil-
- lips, 2 Freem. 11. (e) Franks v. Cooper, 4 Ves. 764.
- (f) Burroughs v. Elton, 11 Ves. 36; Alsager v. Rowley, 6 Ves. 750; Doran v. Simpson, 4 Ves. 665.

Admission of assets not always conclusive.

Notwithstanding an executor has improvidently admitted assets, in his answer to a bill by creditors. or legatees, it is within the jurisdiction of the Court, to permit him to go to account; upon a strong and clear case made out that the admission was a mistake (g). As a general rule, however, an executor who has once admitted assets is held bound by such admission (h).

Practice, where legacies are given to infants.

Formerly, an infant legatee was obliged to file a bill against the executor, who could not safely pay the legacy without a decree: but, under the act of 36 Geo. 3 (i), the executor has only to pay the money into Court; and the infant when of age may petition for it: thereby saving great expense to the residuary legatees (k).

Relief against executors:

proceedings against them go on, both at Law and in Equity.

In cases of fraud the remedy does not die with the person committing it, but the same relief may be had against his executor, to the extent of the In special cases, assets (l). In ordinary cases, proceedings against executors or administrators, both at Law and in Equity, at the same time, would be inadmissible: but, when the personal representative is disposed to give a preference, by confessing judgments, a creditor may obtain leave to make a special election; namely, to proceed at Law to recover judgment, with a stay of execution; and likewise to proceed in Equity for a discovery and account of assets.

⁽g) Young v. Walter, 9 Ves. 365.

⁽h) Roberts v. Roberts, 2 Dick. 574.

⁽i) Cap. 52, s. 32.

⁽k) Whopham v. Wingfield,

⁴ Ves. 631: and see Anonym. 4 Mad. 228.

⁽¹⁾ Garth v. Cotton, 3 Atk. 756.

assets (m). A legacy due from an executor who admits assets, is, in Equity, a debt due from such set-off. executor; within the statutes of bankrupts, also, it is a debt, and one to which the doctrine of setoff is applicable (n).

A legacy may

Administration granted by a Court of a foreign country, cannot be taken notice of in the Courts here, as to the disposal of property situated in this Court of a foreign country(o); but, where a testator has left no estate in England, it is not necessary that the will should be proved here by the executor (p); nor that administration should be taken out here, to a party who has died intestate, with respect to personalty, which, at the time of his death, was with- or by a colonial in a colonial jurisdiction, and of which possession has been obtained by virtue of an administration there granted (q). Whenever administration has been granted irregularly, or has been obtained by ministration irrefraud or surprise, though such administration be gularly obtained are valid, until voidable, yet acts done thereunder, before it is ac- those powers are tually avoided, will be valid; and it is by suit in the Spiritual Court which granted it, that the how that repeal power of administration ought to be repealed (r). is to be obtained. Though, if the Ecclesiastical Judge will not pur-

Effect of administration granted by the country:

Acts done under powers of ad-

sue

- (m) Barker v. Dumaresque, 8 Atk. 119.
- (n) Jeffs v. Wood, 2 P. Wms. 131; Walcot v. Hall, 2 Br. 306.
- (o) Tourton v. Flower, 3 P. Wms. 370. See, ante, p. 430.
- (p) Jauncy v. Sealy, 1 Vern. 397.
- (q) Currie v. Bircham, 1 Dowl. & Ryl. 37.
 - (r) Harrison v. Mitchell,
- Fitz-Gibbon, 304; Blackborough v. Davis, 1 P. Wms. 43.

tical Courts canistration, once abused:

sue the Law, when appealed to, a mandamus may issue; but, it seems, that, until the Spiritual Court has actually erred in this respect, the Court of ordinary jurisdiction will not anticipate any proba-The Ecclesias bility of such erroneous judgment (s). But, where not repealedmin- administration has once been granted regularly in all respects, it is not competent to the Ecclesiastiregularly granted; even though cal Courts to repeal it, on the ground that it has been abused; it was their business to have taken sufficient security, in the first instance, to have guarded against mal-administration; and if the person to whom they have improvidently granted administration be wasting the assets, it is only by an action of devastavit, or, in proper cases, by a bill in Equity, that such fraud can be corrected(t).

what remedy may be had in such case.

Bona fide pay ments to one clothed with powers of administration, will be protected.

costs.

_ .. •:

Bond fide payments to an executor who has obtained probate of a forged will; or to an administrator who has obtained letters of administration by fraud, will be protected: for, if actions had been brought in such cases, the debtors could not A plaintiff su. have made any defence (u). But, with respect to ing as executor, under a probate an executor himself, who has surreptitiously obfraudulently obtained probate of a revoked will, and, under that authority, has commenced a suit or action; if the probate be afterwards recalled by the prerogative Court, the costs of the cause will be thrown upon the party who so improperly instituted the proceedings:

⁽s) Blackborough v. Davis, 1 219; Hill v. Bird, Aleyn, 56. (u) Allen v. Dundas, 1 T. P. Wms. 47, 48.

⁽t) Thomasv. Butler, 1 Ventr. R. 131.

ceedings (w): he cannot shelter himself under the statute (x), which only protects, from costs of not proceeding to trial, a plaintiff suing as executor, who has obtained probate without fraud; and who has been guilty of no *laches*.

(w) Shaw v. Manefield, 7 (x) Stat. 14 Geo. 2, c. 17. Price, 714.

CHAPTER XIII.

Fraud in Matters of Trust.

When trust monies have been wasted, the trusbe marshalled:

WHEN the receipt of trust monies has not been acknowledged under hand and seal(a), a breach of tee's assets may trust is usually considered as a simple contract debt, chargeable upon the personal estate only of the trustee (b): but the assets may be marshalled. and the cestuis que trust decreed to stand in the place of specialty creditors, if these latter exhaust the personalty (c).

and, trust monies may be followed into land, when they are clearly shewn to have been employed in a purchase of that kind:

In giving relief against the misappropriation of trust-funds, the great difficulty has always been, as to following money into land. The Court of Chancery, Lord Hardwicke observes, has been very cautious of doing this; but has done it in some No one, his Lordship adds, will deny, that, the Court should follow the money, if it were actually proved to have been laid out in land: the doubt with the Court, in these cases, has been as parol evidence to to the proof; there is difficulty in receiving paprove this fact is not proof; that might let in perjury; but money has

⁽a) Gifford v. Manley, Ca. temp. Talb. 110; Deg v. Deg, 2 P. Wms. 414.

⁽b) Vernon v. Vawdrey, 2 Atk. 119.

⁽c) Cox v. Bateman, 2 Ves. Senr. 19: it may be observed, that, in this case, the real estate was in Ireland.

has always been followed into land, when the fact has been admitted by the answer of the party who so invested the money. His Lordship concluded, by referring it to the Master to inquire, whether, in the case before him, lands had been purchased with the trust monies (d): thus, in fact, deciding in favor of the admission of parol evidence. Sir Thomas Clarke, M. R. had previously made, though with reluctance, a similar order; and, on receiving the Master's report that trust monies had been invested in land, declared, that, "the money ought to be considered in the same plight and condition as if it had not been invested; and subject to the same trusts and limitations (e)." In the course of the discussions upon these cases, two other precedents (f) were cited, in which similar inquiries were directed; and one case (g), in which Sir John Strange, M. R., declared the land to be liable, without directing a previous inquiry. On the other and the cases imhand, three cases were relied on (Kirk v. Webb (h), amined. $Halcot \ v. \ Marchant(i), \ and \ Kinder \ v. \ Milward(k),$ in which the cestuis que trust could obtain no relief: but, in the two first of these cases, it should be observed, there was no express proof, that, the lands that the lands were bought with the trust monies; had that been were bought with the trust

Precedents in favor of this rule:

Express proof made monies:

4

- (d) Lane v. Dighton, Ambl. 413; Ryall v. Ryall, 2 Atk. 59: and see Taylor v. Plumer, 3 Mau. & Sel. 574.
- (e) Lane v. Dighton, Ambl. 412, 418.
- (f) Balguy v. Hamilton, reported, but not as to this point, in Moseley, 187, and Jones v.

Jones; of which no further report has been found.

- (g) Hardacre v. Massenger, not reported.
- (h) 2 Freem. 230; Prec. in Cha. 84.
 - (i) Prec. in Cha. 168.
- (k) Prec. in Cha. 172,

this was not clearly made out in the case of Kirk v. Webb.

Where there are personal assets, it may be unnecessary to follow the trust

was of opinion, that trust monies could not be followed into land;

had owned, by his investment thereof:

made out, Sir John Trevor, M. R., was of opinion, that, the decisions might have been different: and, in the third case, the Master of the Rolls decreed in favor of the cestul que trust; though, it is true, the Lord Keeper, Wright, reversed that decree: but this reversal is of little weight, as it was made, professedly, upon the authority of Kirk v. Webb; which case, we have seen, wanted one of the indispensable requisites for enabling a Court of Equity to follow trust monies into lands: as it was not there made out, that, the trust monies (1) had been employed in the purchase. It could afford. therefore, no sound precedent, for a case in which such proof of the investment was given. when, in another case, the same last-named Judge refused to follow trust money into lands; he did so on other, and less untenable, grounds; assigning as his reason, that, in the case before him, such remonies into land. lief was unnecessary; there being no deficiency of personal assets of the trustee, to answer the de-Lord King, C. mands of the cestui que trust (m). Lord King, C., did, it is true, lay it down broadly, that, if a receiver of rents should invest all the monies in a purchase of land; or, if an executor should realize all his testator's assets; and, in either case, the party so misapplying the money should afterwards die insolvent; yet a Court of Equity could not unless the trustee charge the land: His Lordship admitted, however, nad owned, by deed, the receipt that if a trustee owned, by deed, the receipt of of the money, and that he had laid out the same in the purchase

> 518. (1) Denton v. Davies, 18 Ves.

502; Perry v. Phelips, 17 Ves. (m) Heron v. Heron, Prec. in 183; Lench v. Lench, 10 Ves. Cha. 163: but see, post, p. 472.

purchase of lands; this would amount to a declaration of trust, and raise a specific lien upon those estates (n). His Lordship's difficulty, therefore, was not as to the principle, but as to the mode of proving the preliminary fact. But, whatever but the admissidoubt may have been formerly entertained on this evidence seems subject; it seems now quite settled, not only that now established: money may, in this manner, be followed into land, but that a claim of the kind may be supported by parol evidence (o); for trusts by implication, or trusts by operaoperation of Law, are not within the statute of tion of Law are not within the frauds (p); if they were, that statute would tend statute of frauds. to promote frauds rather than prevent them (q). Nor is it, in any ease, necessary that a trust should be created by writing; the provisions of the sta- by writing. tute are satisfied if the trust be manifested by a subsequent writing (r).

bility of parol

Still, although personalty misapplied by a trus- Where land has tee may be traced into the purchase of land, and been purchased by a trustee, parol proof of that fact is allowable; it does not partly with his follow, that, in all cases, if the proof of the conver- with trust mosion be satisfactory, the lands purchased must be- que trust will long to the cestui que trust of the money with but not a title to, which it was purchased: the personal estate so the lands so purchased: misapplied may, as to the right owner, retain the character

own, and partly nies; the cestui have a lien upon,

⁽n) Deg v. Deg, 2 P. Wms. 414: and see Gifford v. Manley, Ca. temp. Talb. 109; Ambrose v. Ambrose, 1 P. Wms.

⁽o) Lench v. Lench, 10 Ves. 517.

⁽p) Stat. 29 Car. 2, c. 3.

⁽q) Young v. Peachy, 2 Atk. 256, 257; Willis v. Willis, 2 Atk. 71; Anonym. 2 Ventr. 361.

⁽r) Forster v. Hale, 3 Ves. 707; S. C. on appeal, 5 Ves. 315: See the 7th. section of the Statute of Frauds.

character of personal property, chargeable indeed upon, and demandable out of real estate so bought;

but it may only constitute a lien upon, not give a title to, the estate itself: to this limited extent the equity of a case must, plainly, be confined, when an estate shall appear to have been purchased by a trustee, partly with his own and partly with trust it would be dif- monies (s). But, if the purchase be made excluferent, seeming-ly, if the whole sively with the funds belonging to the cestui que purchase was made with trust trust, it would appear to be most consonant to the general principles of Courts of Equity, that, the cestui que trust should be at liberty to elect, whether he will take the estate, or have the money restored, with interest: for, the impropriety of speculation, by one whose duty it is to secure the property for the right owner, is, surely, not done away by his choosing to speculate in land, rather than in commerce; and the rule is well established, as to an executor (t), (and the principle is equally applicable to any other trustee (u), that, if he will take upon himself to act, with regard to the property he holds as executor, in any other manner than his trust requires, he puts himself into this situation,

purchase was funds.

As the possession of the trustee is the possession the possession of of the cestui que trust; so long as the relation continues

that he cannot be a gainer by it: any gain made must be for the benefit of the cestui que trust.

The possession of the trustee is the cestui que trust:

(s) Lewis v. Maddocks, 17 Ves. 58: Savage v. Carroll, 1 Ba. & Beat. 285.

(t) Piety v. Stace, 4 Ves. 622; Forrest v. Elmes, 4 Ves. 497; Ex parte James, 8 Ves. 350; Rocke v. Harte, 11 Ves. 60; Heathcote v. Hulme, 1 Jac. & Walk. 131; Adye v. Feuilleteau, 1 Cox, 25.

(u) Bate v. Scales, 12 Ves. 405; Sanderson v. Walker, 13 Ves. 603; Ex parte Lacey, 6 Ves. 629.

tinues unbroken by any act, adverse or otherwise, putting an end thereto; so long the trustee is bound to protect the interest of the cestui que trust; without the necessity of any interposition on his part: and the length of time during which and, whilst the he has omitted to discharge his trust, can form no nues unbroken, bar to his responsibility. The mischief of a pur- length of time will not bar the chase from a cestui que trust is always great; but trustee's responit would be monstrous, if the trustee could fix a price, and buy the estate from himself, tacitly, without a word said to his cestui que trust; and or set up an adthen contend, that, he had placed himself in the situation of an owner by adverse title; and, that, by lapse of time, the estate had grown into his absolute property. If a case of this kind be alleged. inquiries will, almost after any length of time, be directed, to ascertain the facts, and do what Equity may prescribe (w). And although the circum- A purchase by stances may not afford such palpable evidence of a trustee of the estate of his fraud, yet, whenever a trustee purchases the es-cestui que trust, tate of his cestui que trust, such a transaction is so instances be supopen to abuse, that, it cannot (except in very special cases,) be sustained in Equity (x): and the application of this principle will not depend upon any nice inquiry whether the sale was, or was not, fairly conducted (y); if such an investigation were thought necessary, before any bargain, obtained by persons standing in situations of influence and trust.

can in very few

Meriv. 208.

⁽w) Chalmer v. Bradley, 1 Jac. & Walk. 67: and see infrà, pp. 476, 478.

⁽x) Morse v. Royal, 12 Ves. 372: Downes v. Grazebrook, 3

⁽y) Randall v. Errington, 10 Ves. 428; Ex parte Bennett, 10 Ves. 385.

is, that, no man

an infant wish to purchase the trust estate, he Equity:

If the certui que trust be an adult, by express agreement with him, the trustee self to become the purchaser.

Quare, whe. ther a trustee title of a third person to lands devised (by infirm title), to his trust?

trust, could be set aside; the ingenuity of fraud for the broad rule might, in many cases, elude detection (s): but the must sell to him- broad rule is, that, no man shall sell to himself. elf.
If a trustee for The only way in which a trustee can protect his purchase of property belonging to infant cestuis que trust, (when he sees it is absolutely necessary the only by applica- estate should be sold, and he is ready to give more than any one else,) is, to file a bill, and apply to the Court, by motion, for permission to become the purchaser. If he made a sufficient case, a Court of Equity would, not break through its rule, but, take the party out of the operation of the rule. by divesting him, quoad hoc, of his character of If the cestus que trust be an adult, and trustee (a). in all respects a free agent, by express agreement with him the trustee may become the purchaser may qualify him- of the trust estate: or he may altogether divest himself of the character of trustee, and thus qualify himself to become the purchaser. But, whilst he continues to be a trustee, he cannot, without express authority from his cestui que trust, have any thing to do with the trust property as a purchaser (b). It has, indeed, been said, that, if the may buy the valid title to lands devised, or descended, to an infant. be re verá in a third person; the trustee or guardian of the infant may buy in the title of such third perinfant cestuique son; and, that, this shall not be taken to be a trust

> (z) Parkes v. White, 11 Ves. 226; Whichcote v. Lawrence, 8 Ves. 752; Hatch v. Hatch, 9 Ves. 297; Lister v. Lister, 6 Ves. 632.

(a) Campbell v. Walker, 5

Ves. 681; Sanderson v. Walker, 18 Ves. 303.

(b) Downes v. Granebrook, 3 Meriv. 208; Woodhouse v. Meredith, 1 Jac. & Walk. 222. See, post, p. 479.

It is presumed, however, this for the infant (c). can only be law when the reality of the third person's title has been judicially determined; and this without any collusive management, or laches, on the part of the trustee. If the question of title was at all disputable, who was to dispute it, after the trustee had deprived himself of the power, or, at all events, of the inclination to do so (d)?

However, where a trustee, or other party holding a confidential situation, has purchased the in- lowed to remain, terests of a party whom it was his duty to protect; for a length of time, in possesafter he has been allowed to remain in possession sion of an estate a length of time, as absolute owner, without im- one whom it was peachment of his purchase, (the cestus que trust tect; the delay lying by, and laboring under no legally acknow- may affect the title to relief ledged disability to maintain his claims,) the delay against such purchase: may materially affect the title to relief against such purchase: for the laches may, in itself, be unjust, and contrary to equity and good conscience (e): the property may have passed through the hands of many innocent purchasers, who, relying upon the undisturbed possession, have, under that idea, laid out considerable sums of money in improvements (f): but, of course, if notice of the trust be charged, and proved, the fact that there have been mesne assignments will not affect the equity to set Generally speaking, Generally speakaside the transaction (g). however, when a party has been guilty of such ing, the lacker which would bar

Where a truspurchased from his duty to pro-

laches a legal title, will bar an equitable

claim.

⁽c) Lesley's case, 2 Freem. 52.

⁽d) Combes v. Throckmorton, cited ibid.

⁽e) Chalmer v. Bradley, 1 Jac. & Walk. 62; Webb v.

Rorke, 2 Sch. & Lef. 672.

⁽f) Bonney v. Ridgard, 1 Cox. 149.

⁽g) Attorney General v. Lord Dudley, Cooper, 146.

tainted with fraud.

laches in prosecuting his equitable title, as would bar him if his title were solely at Law, he will Even in cases be barred in Equity (h). Even in cases of fraud, from a wise consideration of the paramount importance of quieting men's titles, and upon the principle, that, expedit reipublicæ ut sit finis litium; although the statutes of limitations, it has been held, do not apply to any equitable demand, Courts of Equity adopt them; or, at least, generally, take the same limitations for their guide, in cases analogous to those in which the statutes apply at Law (i). But though length of time may bar the may bar the just-est claims, where justest claims, where there has been possession under an adverse title; and the mere fact that an adverse title; there has been, all the time, an outstanding legal time an outstand- estate vested in a naked trustee, will not vary the ing legal estate has been vested case (k); (for that would be, in effect, to determine that no equitable estate could ever be barred by it would be dif- length of time:) still, when the possession has been -not, constructively, in a mere naked trustee, but -actually in one who entered under, and by virtue of the trust; his possession cannot be considered as adverse to the real title; to which, therefore, such possession will be referred (l). such trustee refuse to render any account of the proceeds

length of time there has been possession under though all the ing legal estate in a naked trustee:

ferent if the possession had been in one who enter- ed under the trust:

and who had never denied the real title.

- (h) Bond v. Hopkins, 1 Sch. & Lef. 429; Cholmondeley v. Clinton, 2 Jac. & Walk, 139: see qualifications of the rule. under the head of "Settlement, Conveyance, &c."
- (i) Stackhouse v. Barnston, 10 Ves. 467; Bonney v. Rid-
- gard, 1 Cox, 149.
- (k) Cholmondeley v. Clinton, 2 Jac. & Walk. 146, 175; Harmood v. Oglander, 6 Ves. 217.
- (1) Cholmondeley v. Clinton, 2 Jac. & Walk. 170: and see, suprà, p. 472, et infrà, p. 478.

proceeds of the estate, and, also, deny the title of the cestus que trust; from the period of such denial, his possession must, necessarily, be looked upon as adverse; the statute will begin to run, and if relief is not sought within the time thereby prescribed, the equitable estate will be as conclusively barred as a legal estate, under similar circumstances of *laches* would be (m): for though, to constitute a title by disseisin, a wrongful entry may, in legal strictness, be required (n); still if the negligent may, in legal strictness, be reowner has forfeited his right to recover; the es-quired; but tate, whether legal or equitable, must either de- gent owner has volve on the Crown; pass by escheat; become an to recover, the hæreditas jacens, to which no one can lay claim; estate will remain with the actual or, it must belong to the actual possessor: the Law possessor; though he may have has decided in favor of the latter claim, and settled been, originally, that twenty years adverse possession gives a positive title to the defendant in a possessory action: it is not only a bar to the action or remedy of the plaintiff, but takes away his right of possession (o): it follows, as a necessary corollary, that he will have lost every pretence of title, by the expiration of the time allowed for bringing a writ of right, before he begins to pursue that form of action. But, should a person who has obtained possession of an whose possession estate by fraud, subsequently procure an assignis not necessarily adverse, will ment of elegits affecting the estate; and then levy operate nothing. a fine thereof, he will gain no title by virtue of such fine, and non-claim thereon: his possession,

To constitute a title by disseisin, a wrongful entry where the negliforfeited his right a trustee.

by a person

àt

⁽m) Fishar v. Prosser, Cowp. & Sel. 275.

^{218.} (o) Taylor, on demise of At-

kyns, v. Horde, 1 Burr. 119. (n) Doe v. Perkins, 3 Mau.

at the time of levying the fine, will be referred to his title under the elegits; and not to his tortuous freehold gained by disseisin: his fine, therefore, will operate nothing; there being, in contemplation of Equity, no adverse possession (p): for wrongful possession will never be imputed, where it can Equity will set be referred to just title (q). And if there were aside a nine for frand and covin: any doubt as to the legal operation of such a fine. there is still another ground upon which a Court of Equity would set it aside, as it would any other conveyance,—and that is, fraud and covin (r). Or. it would be more correct to say, not that Equity would absolutely set aside a fine fraudulently obtained, but, that, it would consider all those who have wrongfully taken an estate by such fine, as trustees for the persons defrauded; and decree a reconveyance; on the general ground of laying hold of the ill conscience of the parties, and making them do what is necessary for restoring matters to their former situation (s).

or, rather, consider all who have wrongfully taken an estate by such fine as trustees.

aside a fine for

Whilst we are upon the subject of limitation of actions, it may not be irrelevant to notice, that, it has been said, if a person has been prevailed upon, by artful promises not to prosecute his claim, till his

(p) Conroy v. Caulfield, 2 Ba. & Beat. 272.

(q) Gregory v. Mitchell, 18 Ves. 833; Buckmaster v. Harrop, 13 Ves. 474; Kennedey v. Daly, 1 Sch. & Lef. 378; Clinan v. Cooke, 1 Sch. & Lef. 41; Morphett v. Jones, 1 Swanst. 181: and see, ante, p. 476.

- (r) Conroy v. Caulfield, 2 Ba. & Beat. 272.
- (s) Wilkinson v. Brayfield, 2 Vern. 307; Hubbard v. Gillibrand, cited in 1 Roll's Rep. 115, 116; Pickett v. Loggon, 14 Ves. 234: and see the head of "Frauds in matters of Conveyance:" and also the chapter on "Lunacy."

his debt is barred at Law by the statute of limitations; it might be a serious question, whether a plea of the statute would avail the fraudulent defendant (t). This hesitating observation of Lord Manners must, it is presumed, be understood only with reference to the particular Irish statute to which his Lordship was adverting: at all events, it seems inapplicable to our English statute (u) for promise of payment creates a limitation of personal actions; under which such new assumpsit. promises as those suggested would create a new assumpsit; and the debt would not be barred even in a Court of Law.

Every fresh

A trustee may, as we have seen (w), come to an It is not imposagreement with his cestui que trust, that, with re-sible for a trustee to remove himself ference to a proposed contract of purchase, they from his confidential situation, shall no longer stand in the relative situation of with respect to a trustee and cestui que trust: and if the trustee chase transprove, that, through the medium of such an agreement, he had, previously to the purchase, evidently, distinctly, and honestly, removed himself from the character of trustee; his purchase may be sustained (x). But, although the adjudged cases ad- but he may find mit, that, a man may shake off the confidential prove that he did character of trustee, to determine, in any case, effectually shake whether he has done so effectually, may frequently of trustee; be difficult (y): and this fact will be investigated

4 1

with

⁽t) Barrington v. O'Brien, 1 Ba. & Beat. 178.

⁽u) Stat. 21 Jac. 1, c. 16. See the distinction between this statute, and the Irish statute of 8 Geo. 1, c. 4, stated in Maddock v. Bond, Irish T. R. 333, 335.

⁽w) Ante, p. 474.

⁽x) Sanderson v. Walker, 13 Ves. 601; Downes v. Grazebrook, 3 Meriv. 208.

⁽y) Ex parte Bennett, 10 Ves. 394.

connexion has been really dissolved, yet, if information, acquired whilst it lasted, has been withheld from the former cestui que trust, this concealment will vitiate the contract for purchase: of acquiescence can never arise, till it is first shewn, that the cestui que trust knew all the facts.

not set up a nominal purchaser. when he is, in fact, treating with his cestui que trust for himself.

with the jealousy obviously required, to guard against the common infirmity of human nature, which will in very few instances permit a man to divest himself of that regard for his personal advantage, which might be incompatible with the duty imposed upon him by his office of trustee: and although the the connexion may, indeed, have been dissolved; but if, during its continuance, the trustee acquired any information relative to the value or improveable nature of the property; and has failed to give the fullest information on that head to his cestui que trust; such concealment would vitiate any contract obtained by the trustee for the purchase of the estate (x). And though long acquiescence and the question might bar the remedy of the defrauded party, in this, as in every other case; yet the question of acquiescence can never arise, till it has been previously ascertained, that, the cestui que trust knew the facts, constituting a fraud upon his rights: as long as he continued ignorant of those facts, there could be no laches in not quarreling with the sale A trustee must upon those special grounds (a). Admitting that a trustee may purchase from his cestui que trust, if the latter, being fully aware who is the intended purchaser, and neither pressed by undue influence, nor laboring under any deception, is willing to deal with him(b); still, it can never be suffered, that, a trustee should set up a nominal purchaser, and deal with his cestui que trust in the name of

⁽z) Ex parte Lacey, 6 Ves. 626; Coles v. Trecothick, 9 Ves. 248; Oliver v. Court, 8 Price, 161, 164.

⁽a) Randall v. Errington, 10 Ves. 427.

⁽b) Morse v. Royal, 12 Ves. 373.

that person; while he is clandestinely treating for himself(c).

Courts of Equity look with great jealousy on the conduct of trustees, more particularly where at with peculiar infants are the cestuis que trust: and where a per- jealousy, where infants are the son has the arrangement and management of two cestuis que trust; estates, in one of which he is interested personally, in the other as trustee, he will not be allowed to refer an engagement, into which he has entered, to one account, or the other, as he may think fit, after he has seen the probability of its turning out advantageously, or otherwise. If he has once embarked the infant's property, although no part of such trust money has actually been laid out, the trustee cannot abandon the contract on the part of the infant, and take it on his own behalf: for any profits made he must account; whether he must answer for any loss, or not, will depend upon his authority so to employ the trust funds; and the diligence and honesty with which he has conducted the transaction (d).

The conduct of trustees is looked

One general rule obtains with respect to trustees, of every description, as well as to tenants for ed by a trustee in life; namely, that, if, from being in possession, be a graft upon they have an opportunity of renewing a leasehold the old lease; interest, such renewal will be considered a graft upon the old lease (e): they must not obtain a reversionary lease for their own use only (f); but whatever

Every renewal of a lease obtain-

⁽c) Woodhouse v. Meredith, 1 Jac. & Walk. 222.

⁽d) Wilkinson v. Stafford, 1 Ves. Junr. 42.

⁽e) Mulvany v. Dillon, 1 Ba.

[&]amp; Beat. 419; James v. Dean, 15 Ves. 240.

⁽f) Pickering v. Vowles, 1 Br. 198; Randall v. Russell, 3 Meriv. 196.

whatever advantages they obtain by such means.

old lease, and all ing it, are absolutely expired;

they must hold in trust (g): as purchasers from them. with notice. must likewise do; if relief be But, where the sought without great laches (h). Still, where there the trusts respect has been no contrivance or management, in fraud of those who were interested in the old lease: and where such old lease, and all the trusts respecting it are absolutely determined; and there is neither any remnant of the old lease; nor any tenant right of renewal upon which a new lease could be considered as a graft; there, the party who was trustee, is, quoad hoc, no longer in that situation; the fiduciary character is necessarily terminated for want of an object; the trust, as to this subject, is expired; and there is no ground for excluding the ground for ex-cluding the trus- quendam trustee, (who in this respect is such no tee from treating longer,) from becoming a purchaser of the properfor his own benefit (i). And where a trustee, And even dur- even during the existence of a trust as to the leaseof a trust as to the hold interest, purchases the reversion in fee; although it may be objected, that, by this means, he may purchase the reversion in debars the cestui que trust of a fair chance of a renewal: yet this circumstance, alone, will not be sufficient to convert the purchase of the inheritance, into a mere graft upon the leasehold interfor a purchase of est(k). Upon similar principles, though a counsel the inheritance would disgrace his situation if he should avail

there is no ground for exfor the property

ing the existence leasehold interest, the trustee fee, on his own account:

cannot be con-

Eden, 347.

himself

⁽g) Nesbitt v. Tredennick, 1 Ba. & Beat. 46; Rushworth's case, 2 Freem. 12.

⁽h) Parker v. Brooke, 9 Ves. 587; Senhouse v. Earle, Ambl. 288; Cordwell v. Mackrill, 2

⁽i) Stokes v. Clarke, Colles' P. C. 193.

⁽k) Randall v. Russell, 3 Meriv. 197; Hardman v. Johnson, 3 Meriv. 352.

himself of information, which he obtained as trus-verted into a tee for tenants for life, or years, to procure from hold, or life inthe right heir a conveyance of the reversion in fee, terests. for his own benefit: still, much as a Court of Equity would disapprove such a transaction; and desirous as it might be to consider him a trustee only; it would not be warranted in doing so, in favor of tenants for life, who took nothing in the inheritance (1). Whether such a dealing would, or would not, be impeachable by the vendor, must depend on the special circumstances.

If a copyholder bequeath his copyhold on trust, and the trustees will not apply to be admitted; a copynous, or and the heir also declines to be admitted as such; purpose of getting rid of a trust whereby a forfeiture accrues; should the heir then attaching upon the former grant, procure a new grant to himself, this would plainly cannot be held appear to be a fraud intended to get rid of the trust. trust: and the facts appearing on the court rolls, a purchaser from the heir (who is bound to search the rolls as far back as is necessary for ascertaining his title,) would be affected with notice, and, in Equity, be himself considered as a trustee (m).

A new grant of copyhold, conotherwise than in

It is the duty of trustees to afford their cestuis que trust all the information of which they are, or afford his cestui ought to be, in possession; a trustee may involve que trust full information as to himself in serious difficulty, by want of informa- the subject mattion which it was his duty to obtain: and he who, undertaking to give information, gives but half information; in the doctrine of Equity, conceals. When, therefore, a cestui que trust is induced, by imperfect

It is the duty ter of the trust:

⁽m) Pearce v. Newlyn, 3 (1) Norris v. Le Neve, 3 Atk. 38. Mad. 189.

imperfect information of the trustees, to enter into a compromise of his claims; the compromise, as far as respects the trustees, is invalid: unless subsequently ratified and confirmed by the cestui que trust, when laboring under no disability or influence, and with a full knowledge of all the circumduty may involve him in personal of the trustees; and this not only if steps are taken responsibility. a neglect of this stances: the party may proceed against all, or any, as soon as the cestui que trust comes of age; but the protection of a Court of Equity will be continued until he has had means of acquiring full informa-And although the trustees may, by the very act complained of, be placed in a more disadvantageous situation, as to relief over, against third persons, than they would have been, had that act not taken place; yet, if the circumstances are such, that the act may be considered as the trustees' own act, rather than that of the cestui que trust, the inconvenience which the trustees may thus suffer will not bar relief: they must bear the consequences of their own improper conduct (n).

No interest derived from a breach of trust can be retained,

When trustees depart from that rule of conduct which their duty prescribes to them, neither they, nor those who claim under them, with notice, can sustain an interest derived from their breach of trust (o): the cestuis que trust are not called on to prove actual injury, in order to enable them to set unless the cestuis the transaction aside. But if, with a full knowledge

que trust, deli-

(n) Walker v. Symonds, 3 Swanst. the several points, in the order here stated, will be found confirmed by Lord Eldon's judgment, reported in pp. 58, 73, 64, 75, 69, 61.

(o) Garth v. Cotton, 1 Dick. 200; Adair v. Shaw. 1 Sch. & Lef. 262; Phayre v. Perce, 3 Dow, 129.

ledge of all the circumstances, and when under no berately, and legal disability or undue influence, the cestuis que undue influence, trust deliberately confirm the acts of the trustees, have confirmed the transaction. they are estopped from complaining of those acts subsequently, as far as their own interests are concerned; though, of course, if the cestuis que trust be only tenants for life, they cannot, by their confirmation, conclude the interests of those in remainder(p).

If a person accept the office of trustee of a marriage settlement, by which property is intended to separate use of a be secured for the separate use of the wife, dur- wife, must enter into no private ing the joint lives of the husband and wife, with agreement with the husband, to remainder to the survivor; but subject to a power defeat the intenof joint appointment, reserved to them in the settlement: any private agreement between the husband and the trustee, that the property should be held liable to make good the engagements of the husband with the trustee, would be fraudulent against the other parties to the settlement. And, the whole property being subject to a power of appointment, capable of defeating all right of survivorship; if that power be executed, the argument that the husband might, at any rate, make his chance of survivorship liable to his debts, could not, in such case, be of any effect. The trustee would be bound to carry the appointment into execution; without himself setting up, or allowing any one else to set up, any thing to defeat it (q). And where a creditor of the husband, by suppress-

A trustee of a settlement, to the tion of the settle-

And if a man, by fraud, procure

⁽p) Bowes v. East London Water-works, 3 Mad. 383.

⁽q) Morris v. Clarkson, 1 Jac. & Walk. 111.

a feme coverte, his private object being to pay him-self, out of the due to him from her husband; the fruits of such imposition.

made at rust co for ing the fact that he has any such demand, but with a view of repaying himself out of the wife's separate property, procures himself to be appointed one trust fund, a debt of her trustees; thus becoming ostensibly a trustee for the feme coverte, but in reality for his own Equity will not allow him to reap benefit; a Court of Equity will not allow him to read the fruits of his imposition, by reverting to his character of creditor, and setting up (so as in any way to affect the separate estate of his cestus que trust,) the debt which he had suppressed (r).

However fully a discretionary power of management may be what would be plainly benefi-cial, they will be answerable.

A power given to trustees to renew a lease, in settlement, " as occasion may require, and as they agement may be given to trustees, may think proper," does, indeed, give them a dis-if they would be gretion; but not an arbitrary and capricious discretion; a Court of Equity will judge whether it be exercised properly, for the interests of the cestui que trust (s): if they omit to renew, when a renewal would be evidently beneficial, they will be answerable for a breach of trust; although they may not have derived any personal advantage Where trustees have a ge-A general pow- from the neglect (t). given to trustees, neral power of distribution as to the trust funds, according to their discretion, without any particucept in the case lar object pointed out, or rule laid down, a Court of Equity cannot interpose; unless in the instance of a general trust for charity. But, where a rule is laid down, and the objects of bounty designated, so that the discretion is to be exercised, and the judgment

er of distribution cannot be interfered with, exof a general trust for charity.

⁽r) Dalbiac v. Dalbiac, 16 Ves. 124.

⁽s) Lord Milsington v. Lord Mulgrave, 8 Mad. 493; Webb v. The Earl of Shaftesbury, 7

Ves. 487.

⁽t) Lord Montfort v. Lord Cadogan, 17 Ves. 489; S. C. on appeal, 19 Ves. 688; Adair v. Shaw, 1 Sch. & Lef. 272.

judgment determined upon matters of fact; such a judgment can be as well exercised and acted upon by a Court as by the trustees; and, if necessary, the case will be referred to a Master (u). wife's subsequent trustees of a marriage settlement, empowering them approbation will to advance to the husband a sum of money, upon not be equivalent to her previous receiving a written consent of the wife, attested by consent to a distwo witnesses; take upon them to advance the settled upon her. money without such consent: they cannot justify this breach of trust by alleging a subsequent approbation of the wife. For, the actual advance of the money to the husband, who, perhaps, may be unable to return it, would create an unfair pressure upon the judgment of the wife, giving to her subsequent approbation a very different character from the free consent required by the settlement(w).

If the In what case a posal of money

It is an undoubted maxim, that, no one can be compelled, in Equity, to answer questions having pelled in Equity a tendency to convict himself of a criminal of-swer tending to fence (x): if, therefore, it be alleged by bill, that, of a criminal a trustee has sold a living belonging to his cestui que trust, the trustee may demur to any discovery that would tend to fix him with simony, which, in the eye of the Law, is a crime. And even in the examination of witnesses, in such a cause, a Court of Equity would exclude all questions having no object but to prove simony: but, if the ob- but where the ject of such questions be to prove payment of mo- questions put to

No one is com-

ney,

⁽u) Gower v. Mainwaring, 1 Ves. Senr. 89; Walker v. Walker, 5 Mad. 427: see infrà, p. 493.

⁽w) Bateman v. Davies, 3

Mad. 99. (x) Ex parte Symcs, 11 Ves.

prove payment of money, they ed; though the effect may be to prove simony.

ney, though the effect of the answer may be to must be answer prove simony, such questions cannot be excluded: for no considerations will induce the Court to declare, that, a trustee may so deal with the trust property, as to be at liberty to state what he has done, only to a certain extent; and vet, that, the cestui que trust must rest satisfied with the imperfect information, which is all the trustee thinks fit to give (y).

If a trader employ trust funds in a partnership business, the ioint estate.

Those who receive trust property from a trustee, in breach of his trust, become themselves trustees, if they have notice of the trust; therefore, if cestui que trust is tees, il they have home of his cestui que trust in a creditor of the a trader employ the funds of his cestui que trust in the joint trade of his partners and himself, with their knowledge, the cestui que trust may, on the bankruptcy of the firm, prove against the joint estate (x).

A lease of charity estates for an unreasonable term, or containing improper newal, is bad:

Leases of charity estates for an unreasonable term, and without an adequate consideration, are. by a series of decisions, determined to be bad (a): covenants for re- a fortiori they are so if they contain a covenant for perpetual renewal (b): in all such cases fraud is inferred, and the lessee is held to be a trustee. as it is, if granted If a corporation, acting as trustees of a charity, demise part of the charity estate to one of their own body, at a lower annual rent than might have been obtained from another responsible tenant; it would be impossible for the lessee to support such a lease, if

by a corporation to one of their own body, at less than the full rent.

⁽y) Parkhurst v. Lowten, 2 Swanst. 211, 215.

⁽z) Ex parte Heaton, Buck, 387: and see post, under the head of "Bankruptcy."

⁽a) Attorney General v. Moses, 2 Mad. 308.

Attorney General v. Brooke, 18 Ves. 326.

if he was aware of the circumstances under which it was granted (c). Sir William Grant, M. R., once said, that, it had never been decided, from counts does not what period a corporate body should be obliged to apply to cases of trust accounts. account in matters of trust: but, that, at all events, it-never could be competent to trustees, of any description, to say, they would account only from the time when a demand was made. His Honor also intimated, that, to assimilate the cases of a trust account and a common account, by decreeing, in the former case as well as in the latter, the account to be taken only for the period of six years next before the bill filed, would clearly be improper. Though, of course, no account can be decreed for any period antecedent to that at which the title of the plaintiffs actually before the Court (or of those under whom they claim) accrued (d). If estates be devised upon trust to apply the profits thereof cers of a parish be devised upon trust to apply the profits thereof misapply funds for the relief of poor inhabitants of a parish, (not left in trust for the poor, satisfacbeing a corporation,) and the parish officers, who tion can only be are appointed as acting trustees during the time them personally, they are in office, misapply those profits in any successors in year; an account, and satisfaction for the breach office: of trust, must, in Equity, be sought against the individuals who committed it; and not against their successors in office; a parish being a fluctuating body, not at all similar to a corporation. with a view to the prospective interests of the Master for the charity, a reference may be had to a Master of future regulation of the trust.

limitation of ac-

If annual offisought against

But, but a reference

the

and Tenant."

⁽c) Ex parte Greenhouse, 1 Mad. 109: and see the chapters of this work appropriated to "Charity," and to "Landlord

⁽d) Attorney General v. Brewers' Company, 1 Meriv. 498. See, post, p. 493.

the Court, to approve of a scheme for the future regulation of the trust (e).

A purchaser nuder a trust for generally, is not obliged to see to the money:

debts be specified:

he can pursue in such case.

Rule when a as a co-obligor to his testator's estate.

The doctrine is well settled, that, when a sale under a trust for payment of debts is made under a trust, or devise, for payment of debts generally, without a specification of the debts the application of in a schedule; a purchaser is not obliged to see to the application of the money: this rule is in but, he is, if the support of the trust, as it facilitates the sale. But. if there be a specification of the debts, a purchaser is bound to look to the application of the money; and must either take assignments from the creditthe safest course ors (f), or he may apply to a Court of Equity to have the money paid into the Bank, under the direction of the Court, and not taken out without notice to him: this last is the safest course, and obviates, moreover, all possibility of fraud upon the trust, through collusion between the trustees and the purchaser (g).

If a general devisee, in trust, be also indebted devisee in trust, is also indebted by bond, jointly with two others, to the testator's estate; the three co-obligors cannot, by a transaction between themselves, agree that one shall be discharged, and the whole security rest upon the two, without the privity of the executor; where the testator has named one; and, although slight evidence of the executor's assent might support an actual and bond fide payment to the trustee, yet, that principle could not apply to the case put, which

⁽e) Ex parte Fowlser, 1 Jac. & Walk. 73; French v. Dear, 5 Ves. 547; Lanchester v. Thompson, 5 Mad. 12: see, post, title " Charity."

⁽f) Lloyd v. Baldwin, 1 Ves. Sepr. 173.

⁽g) Binks v. Lord Rokeby, 2 Mad. 239.

which would be, not receiving the money, but, lessening the security (h).

In a case where trustees joined, collusively, with Responsibility a remainder-man in putting the tenant for life of have colluded the trust estate out of possession; and, before the with a remaindertenant for life was restored to her rights, some of tenant for life: the occupiers of the land became insolvent; the trustees were decreed to make good, not merely what the tenant for life would, under the circumstances, have actually received, had her possession been uninterrupted; but, all she was entitled by her contracts of lease to receive (i). If, on the or who have colother hand, trustees to preserve contingent re- tenant for life, mainders collude with the tenant for life, and per- and enabled him to commit waste. mit him to commit waste, in fraud of those in remainder; the trustees will be responsible for such breach of trust (j).

luded with the

It would, in ordinary cases, be a fraud in mere trustees to preserve contingent remainders, to concur in the destruction of those very interests, the gent remainders protection of which was the sole object of their ap- in destroying pointment (k): but where they join in the destruction of contingent remainders, without any fraudulent motive, after the first tenant in tail has attained the age of twenty-one years; this may be only but, fair family in furtherance of such a fair and reasonable family arrangements may justify the arrangement as a Court of Equity, even if it hesi- act, after the first tenant in tail is

In ordinary cases, trustees to must not concur those interests:

tated of age:

- (h) Dickenson v. Lockyer, 4 Ves. 44.
- (i) Kaye v. Powell, 1 Ves. Junr. 408.
- (j) Garth v. Cotton, 3 Atk. 753; Stansfield v. Habergham,
- 10 Ves. 278. See the head of " Waste," ante, p. 238.
- (k) Mansell v. Mansell, 2 P. Wms. 680; Biscoe v. Perkins, 1 Ves. & Bea. 491.

be also the te-

In a suit respecting trust property, if the party in whom the first estate of inheritance is the Court, all who come after will be bound by the decree.

tated to direct the act, would not deem a culpable and if the trustee breach of trust (1). A fortiori, when the trustee nant for life, he is not merely such, but is, also, tenant for life of may join in bar-the estate, he will not be esteemed guilty of a ring the entail. breach of trust in joining with a remainder-man in tail to bar the entail: for the policy of the Law always favors the free alienation of property (m). And it is an established rule, that, however numerous the contingent limitations of a trust may be, trustees, and the it is sufficient in a suit respecting the trust property, to bring the trustees before the Court, tovested, are before gether with the party in whom the first inheritance is vested; and all that come after will be bound by the decree, even though they were not in esse at the time it was made: unless there be fraud and collusion between the trustees and the party having the first vested estate of inheritance; such fraud or collusion would unravel the transaction, not only in Equity, but at common Law (n).

A discretion given in the largercised fairly; may be empow-

It is a clear principle, that, no fraudulent, or given in the large dilatory, dealing by trustees shall be allowed either tees, must be ex- to benefit themselves (o), or to affect third per-A direction to trustees to sell "at such ered to sell "at time, and in such manner as they shall think fit," such time as they shall think fit," will not authorize them arbitrarily to postpone the sale

Eden, 238.

(p) Gaskell v. Harman, 11 Ves. 507; Bernard v. Montague, 1 Meriv. 433; Hutchin v. Manning, 1 Ves. Junr. 367; Swan v. Fonnereau, 3 Ves. 49; Hawkins v. Chappell, 1 Atk. 623.

⁽l) Moody v. Walters, 16 Ves. 307, 310, 311.

⁽m) Osbrey v. Bury, 1 Ball & Beat. 58.

⁽n) Hopkins v. Hopkins, 1 Atk. 590.

⁽o) Burgess v. Wheate, 1

sale to an indefinite period. Even under such they must do so words of large discretion, it would be necessary to mient speed. decide upon the respective rights of the tenant for life and the remainder-man by some fixed rule, and to hold the conversion to have been made at some given period; just as much as if the trustees had been directed to sell " with all convenient speed (q)." And if trustees have sold an estate which was charged with payment of a sum of moprotect themney, but have neglected to satisfy that demand; selves from the consequences of they cannot, by a plea of the statute of limitations, a breach of trust, by pleading the protect themselves from the consequences of their statute of limitabreach of trust (r).

An improper contract entered

If trustees for sale, or those acting by their authority, fail in reasonable diligence; if they con- into by trustees tract under circumstances of haste and improvi- for sale will receive no aid from dence; if they make the sale with a view to advance Equity. the particular purposes of one party interested in the execution of the trust, at the expense of another party; a Court of Equity will not countenance such a contract (s). But, it is established by all By what acts of the cases, that, if the cestus que trust join with the of acquiescence, trustees in that which is a breach of trust, know- a certui que trust releases the trusing all the circumstances; such a cestui que trust tees from responcan never complain of that breach of trust. not only concurrence in the act, but acquiescence without original concurrence, will release the trus-This, however, is only the general rule, admitting many distinctions; and Courts of Equity will

sibility to him, And for a breach of

⁽q) Walker v. Shore, 19 Ves. 392; Elwin v. Elwin, 8 Ves. 554: see, suprà, pp. 436, 487.

⁽r) Milnes v. Cowley, 4

Price, 108. See, ante, p. 489. (s) Ord v. Noel, 5 Mad. 441.

See the head of "Specific Per-

formance."

will inquire into the circumstances which induced concurrence or acquiescence (t).

Trustees must not lend trust money, on the mere security of a trader's bond.

A power given to trustees to lend the trust money, upon such real or personal security as should be thought good and sufficient, will not authorize them to lend money to a trader, upon his bond; and the transaction will be a still more palpable breach of trust, if it appear to have been an accommodation, induced by personal connexion with the borrower (s).

Rules of Equity, where the consent of trustees to the marriage of a legatee is required to vest a legacy:

Where the consent of trustees to the marriage of a legatee is required, in order to vest a legacy: if such consent has been substantially given, though not modo et formá, the legatee will be held duly entitled to the legacy (w). And, though it would be wrong to lay it down generally, that, even an express consent to a matrimonial connexion may not be retracted, or limited (x): yet, after a mutual attachment had been suffered to grow up under the sanction of the trustees, Lord Eldon observed, it would be somewhat late to state terms and conditions, on which a marriage between the parties should take place (y): and Lord Somers, more than a century before, declared, that, he looked upon a countermand of consent to the terms of a marriage as nothing, after the young people's affections were

⁽i) Walker v. Symonds, 8 Swanst. 64.

⁽u) Langston v. Ollivant, Coop. 84: see, ante, p. 437.

⁽w) Worthington v. Evans, 1 Sim. & Stu. 172; Pollock v. Croft, 1 Meriv. 187; Daley v.

Desbouverie, 2 Atk. 265.

⁽x) Smith v. Huson, 1 Phillim. 300: but see Merry v. Ryves, 1 Eden, 6.

⁽y)D'Aguilar v. Drinkwater,2 Ves. & Bes. 234.

were engaged (z). If the trustee himself be the Where the trusperson to whom the legacy would go over, in case person to whom of a non-compliance on the part of the legatee with the legacy is given over, the reathe conditions on which the bequest was made; sonableness of his the refusal, or retractation, of consent to the mar- to the legatee's riage by such trustee, would be a very suspicious closely examincircumstance, though it might not necessarily imply fraud (a).

refusal of consent marriage will be

Equity will fix one who prevents the insertion of a gift in a will.

Should a testator be induced to omit the insertion in his will of a formal provision for any intended object of his bounty, upon the faith of assurances, given by his heir, or any other person whose interests would be affected by the regular insertion of such a bequest in the will, that, the testator's wishes and intention shall be executed as punctually and fully as if the bequest were formally made; this promise and undertaking will raise a trust; which, though not available at common Law, will be enforced in Equity, on the ground of fraud (b). And an engagement, of the kind alluded to, may be entered into, not only by words, but, by silent assent to such a proposed undertaking; which will.

(z) Wanchford v. Fotherley, 2 Freem. 201.

(a) Garrett v. Pretty, as stated (with prefatory observations) from Reg. Lib. in note to Lloyd v. Branton, 3 Mer. 120; Clarke v. Parker, 19 Ves. 12; Mesgrett v. Mesgrett, 2 Vern. 581; Dashwood v. Lord Bulkeley, 10 Ves. 243; Harvey v. Aston, 1 Atk. \$80: and see

the head of "Testamentary Dispositions," ante, p. 401.

(b) Chamberlain v. Agar, 2 Ves. & Bea. 262; Mestaer v. Gillespie, 11 Ves. 638; Stickland v. Aldridge, 9 Ves. 519; Barrow v. Greenough, 3 Ves. 154; Chamberlaine v. Chamberlaine, 2 Freem. 34; Oldham v. Litchford, 2 Freem. 285.

will, equally, raise a trust (c). Of course, the case would be still stronger, if the due insertion of the legacy in the will had been prevented by any violent interference (d).

A trustee has a lien upon the payment of all necessary expenses.

It follows from the nature of a trustee's office, trust fund for re- (whether it be expressed in the instrument or not.) that, the trust property must reimburse him all the charges and expenses incurred in the execution of the trust: but, it would be wrong to conclude, that, the persons employed by the trustee are, therefore, creditors of the trust fund; and that they can go against the same (e).

A trustee not discharged on the mere allegation that he has never acted.

A trustee will not be discharged, and a new trustee appointed in his room, on motion, grounded upon a mere statement at the bar that he has never acted: a previous reference to the Master will be directed, to look through the proceedings, and see whether the trustee remains accountable for any acts done by him as such; and, in case he does not, then to settle a release (f).

⁽c) Byrn v. Godfrey, 4 Ves. (e) Worrall v. Harford, 8 10; Paine v. Hall, 18 Ves. Ves. 8. – v. Osborne, 6 (f) -475. Ves. 455. (d) Dixon v. Olmius, 1 Cox, 414.

CHAPTER XIV.

Fraud in dealings with expectant Heirs. Reversioners, Infants, married Women, and persons laboring under embarrassed circumstances, or imbecility of mind (a).

THERE is no head of Equity more difficult of Generally speakapplication than the avoidance of a contract, up- cannot be avoidon the ground that advantage has been taken of ed on the ground that advantage distress; but, generally speaking, there can be no has been taken of title to such relief where the advantage, or disad- advantage, if any, vantage, of the contract depended upon subsequent sequent contincontingencies, the result of which must have been gencies; equally uncertain to each party at the time of the contract (b). The case of an expectant heir, deal- but, the case of ing for his expectancy during his father's life, is an an expectant heir forms an excepexception; to that class of persons the Court of tion:

ing, a contract distress, when the depended on sub-

Chancerv

(a) For cases where the imbecility is such as may support a Commission of Lunacy, see the appropriate Chapter. See, also, the head of "Specific Performance," for instances in which catching bargains and contracts, tainted with fraud, have not been carried into execution: and the several heads of "Trust, Agents, Settlement, Conveyance, &c." for cases in which such corrupt contracts have been rescinded, after actual execution.

(b) Ramsbottom v. Parker, 6 Mad. 6; Paine v. Meller, 6 Ves. 352; Pritchard v. Ovey, 1 Jac. & Walk. 403; Revell v. Hussey, 2 Ba. & Beat. 287; Gowland v. De Faria, 17 Ves.

his sale, however, by public auction, of a reversion, may be supported;

though such a sale may, on the other hand, afford no evidence that the fair market price was given.

Chancery seems to have extended a degree of protection, approaching nearly to an incapacity to bind themselves by any contract(c). And, although it has been decided, that, a sale by an expectant heir of a reversion (which is as much property as an estate in possession,) may be supported, if the property be sold openly by public auction, and such pretended sale be not used merely to cover a private bargain (d): yet, if the particulars of an auction-sale disclose, that, the vendor is a young man, about to raise money on post obit bonds. payable at the death of his father; and, that, the sale is to take place without a reserve of any bidding on the part of the vendor: in consequence of this relinquishment of the precaution by which every provident vendor protects himself against an inadequate price (e), such a vendor must be considered, in some degree, as in the power of those who deal with him; and a sale by auction, under such circumstances, does not afford fair evidence of the market price (f).

Where the dealing is, subchaser.

If an expectant heir be dealing, substantially, ceaning is, substantially, for the for his expectations, he is not the less entitled to expectations of an heir, a color- the protection of the Court, because he deals, also, able disguise of for a present obligation, which there is little pronot avail the purbability that he should be able to discharge; or because he throws in a present possession, bearing but a small proportion to the whole interests bargained

⁽c) Peacock v. Evans, 16 Ves. 514; Marsack v. Reeves, 6 Mad. 109; Gaynne v. Heaton, 1 Br. 9.

⁽d) Shelley v. Nash, 3 Mad.

^{236.} (e) Bramley v. Alt, 3 Ves. 628; Ord v. Noel, 5 Mad. 440. (f) Fox v. Wright, 6 Mad. 112.

bargained for (g): it is obvious, that, all the frauds which the general rule is intended to counteract, would be let in, if such a colorable evasion were permitted.

Whenever an expectant heir, or tenant in remainder in very embarrassed circumstances, en-needy person are ters into a dealing for the sale of his inheritance purchased by an attorney, Courts with an experienced attorney; a Court of Equity of Equity will be atronol a diagonard will not think it necessary to look very minutely to set aside the into the circumstances, but upon grounds of public policy will be disposed to set aside the conveyance; and if, in such case, the party selling was ignorant of the extent and value of his property, whilst the purchaser knew both; if there was no valuation, no survey, no one to assist the ignorant and distressed vendor; such a transaction would be a gross fraud, on the face of it (h). So, in a as they will, case where a purchase was made at an inadequate professional perprice, from vendors who were in great distress (i), son employed in transacting a barand without the intervention of any other profes- gain with a distressed vendor, sional assistance than the purchaser's attorney; was the attorney these facts were considered sufficient evidence. that, advantage was taken of the distress of the yendors: and upon that ground, without the necessity of taking into consideration the additional circumstance, that the subject of purchase was a reversion, the conveyances were set eside (k).

If the future interests of a strongly disposed conveyance:

of the vendee.

The principle upon which a Court of Equity The onus of will proving, that, a

Ves. 248; Crowe v. Ballard,

⁽g) Davis v. Duke of Markborough, 2 Swanst. 154.

¹¹ Ves. Junr. 219; Oliver v. (h) Roche v. Q'Brien, 1 Ba. · Court. 8 Price. 168.

[&]amp; Beat, 837, \$38. (k) Wood v. Abrey, 8 Mad.

⁽i) Pickett v. Loggon, 14 484.

fair price was paid for a reversionary interest, rests with the purchaser:

will relieve reversioners from disadvantageous bargains is, that, persons who are treating for even vested reversions, are held to be so exposed to imposition and hard terms, and so much in the power of those with whom they contract, that it is a fit rule of policy, to impose upon all who deal with reversioners the onus of proving they paid a fair price; or otherwise to set aside their bargains, and compel a reconveyance of the property pur-And although the soundness of this principle has been questioned, the rule seems, by a series of decisions, to be established (l).

a fortiori, where the subject of purchase is the expectancy of an beir:

A fortiori, where a person has dealt with an heir apparent, for interests not vested, but which constituted, a bare expectancy; it does not rest with the heir to shew that the bargain was unreasonable and improvident; but it lies on the other side to shew that it was reasonable (m): this principle, however, must not be carried to the extent of enabling an heir expectant, or remainder-man, to do palpable injustice; it may empower him to the consideration set aside an imprudent contract on repayment of the consideration actually received, but it will not authorize him "to take out of any man's pocket any thing he pleases, and never replace it (n)." And where the contract for purchase of a reversionary interest was unimpeachable at the time of the agreement, its performance cannot be resisted, although

but if the contract be set aside, must be returned:

and a fair agreement as to a reversionary interest must be performed, al-

borough, 2 Swanst. 139.

⁽¹⁾ Shelley v. Nash, 3 Mad. 236; Gowland v. De Faria, 17 Ves. 24; Marsack v. Reeves, 6 Mad. 109.

⁽m) Davis v. Duke of Marl-

⁽n) Bernal v. Marquis of Donegal, 3 Dow, 151; Bowes v. Heaps, 3 Ves. & Bea. 121.

although the life, or lives, on which the reversion though the lives depended, have fallen in before the completion of on which the rethe purchase. Every such bargain is necessarily may have fallen made subject to this contingency (o).

In all cases where a gift is immoderate; bears no proportion to the circumstances of the giver; ubi strictly scrutinize modus non adhibetur, ubi non refertur ad facultates; and the giver is a weak man, liable to be imposed parently unreaupon; a Court of Equity will strictly examine the sonable, has been made, by a weak conduct of the persons in whose favor such gift is man: made: and if the Court see, that, any arts or stratagems, or any undue means whatever, have been used to procure the gift, it will and ought to interpose (p). Where bonds payable upon con-nor can a boud tingencies are given to loose women by heirs ap- given pro turpi parent, the probability is, they were given pro ed. turpi causá: at all events, a Court of Equity seeing the parties in a situation so liable to be imposed upon and unduly influenced, will presume they were so; and admit no proof to the contra- $\mathbf{ry}(q)$.

Equity will the conduct of persons in whose favor a gift, ap-

There are many instances, in which a party may not be a proper subject for a commission of luna- Chancery may impose the recy, yet his state of mental powers may be such as straint of infancy to call for the peculiar protection of a Court of full age, whose Equity, by assigning him a guardian. With re- weakness of intellect calls for spect to infants this is every day's practice; and this protection.

The Court of

the

(o) Paine *. Meller, 6 Ves. 353; Harford v. Purrier, 1 Mad. 539; White v. Nutt, 1 P. Wms. 62; Ex parte Manning, 2 P. Wms. 410.

(p) Bridgeman v. Green,

Wilmot's notes, 61; White v. Small, 2 Cha. Ca. 103; Aylward v. Kearney, 2 Ball & Beat. 472.

(q) Bridgeman v. Green, Wilmot's notes, 73.

the hypothetical disability in the case of infancy, may really subsist when the party is of age; or even a much greater degree of incapacity: in such cases, though the party cannot be found a lunatic, by inquisition, the Court of Chancery itself appoints a guardian; imposing all the restraints of infancy, and binding the party by the acts of that guardian (r).

The acts of an infant, or of a feme coverte, are, in most instances, inoperative as against themselves;

cy, nor coverture, can authorize fraud:

But, although Courts of Equity are always anxious to afford their protection to those who, from their situations, are unable to protect themselves: and upon this ground, in legal contemplation, the acts of an infant, or a feme coverte, are, in most instances, inoperative as against themselves, yet but neither infan-coverture never authorizes fraud (s); nor does infancy (t): for if an infant be old and cunning enough to contrive and carry on a fraud, he ought in the consequent to make satisfaction for it (u): therefore, if, in any ces of which they may be implicated, may be implicated, ed by mere pri there appear fraud, of which the infant was conusite. sant, he will be as much bound as an adult (w). For instance, if an infant, knowing his rights, stand by and see another in treaty for the purchase of his estate, without giving him notice of his title, the infant will not be permitted afterwards to set up his title to avoid the purchase; for neither infancy nor coverture can excuse such an apparent fraud:

> (r) Sherwood v. Saunderson, 19 Ves. 283.

inghamshire v. Drury, 2 Eden, 72; Cory v. Gertcken, 2 Mad. 49.

⁽s) Evans v. Bicknell, 6 Ves. 181: see infrà, p. 504.

⁽t) Evroy v. Nicholas, 2 Eq. Ca. Ab. 489; Earl of Buck-

⁽u) Watts v. Cresswell, 2 Eq. Ca. Ab. 515.

⁽w) Beckett v. Cordley, 1 Br. 358.

fraud: and it is not necessary that an infant, or feme coverte, should be active in promoting such purchase, in order to estop them from complaining of it; if it appear they were so far privy to it, that, it could not be completed without their knowledge(x).

An infant cannot be made a bankrupt (y): but, when it appears, that, he held himself out to the out as an adult: world as an adult and sui juris, contracting debts as such; the Court will not on petition make an ed to be a feme order to supersede a commission issued against summary aid, him; but will leave him to bring his action at Law. He is no more entitled to any favor and assistance than a feme coverte, who lives apart from her husband and contracts debts, professing to be a feme sole: a woman of that description is always left, at or at common common Law, to make the best she can of her formal plea of coverture, in any action brought against her; and summary relief, by interference of Court, is always refused to her (2). An infant may be charged in trover, for that implies a tort; not be decreed to account. but he cannot be decreed to account as bailiff, or factor; nor be sued in respect of contracts (a).

An infant who has held himself and a feme coverte who has professsole, will have no either in Equity,

When an estate is purchased on behalf of infants, notice of any equitable incumbrance is as cumbrances, afbinding upon the infants as if they were adults: purchased on behalf of infants, is otherwise, a man would only have to purchase on binding upon the

Notice of inbehalf infants.

⁽x) Savage v. Foster, 9 Modern Rep. 37.

⁽y) Ex parte Layton, 6 Ves. 440.

⁽z) Ex parte Watson, 16 Ves. 266.

⁽a) Smalley v. Smalley, 1 Eq. Ca. Ab. 6.

behalf of infants to free an estate of all equitable incumbrances to which it might be subject (b).

An infant, or as trustees only; ill adapted as be to fulfil the

Where a devise, or bequest, is made to a married feme coverte, may take under a will woman, or an infant, in terms which, if applied to an adult, would create a trust: these terms must such parties must have the same effect with respect to the infant, or duties of a trust. feme coverte: for, however little adapted such persons are to fill the office, and perform the duties, of trustees (c); yet, if such an appointment be actually made, the parties cannot, upon the strength of its singularity, and their incompetence to act as trustees, set up a claim to a beneficial interest (d). In one case, extraordinary as it may seem, an infant was declared to be a trustee of an estate, purchased in his name, solely on account of his tender years at the time (e).

Though coverture never authorizes fraud; yet, there may be cases in which fraud committed by a married woman cannot be redressed;

When it was said, above, that, coverture never authorizes fraud; it must not be inferred, that, every fraud committed by a feme coverte can be Property may be given for the separedressed. rate use of a married woman, and if it be so given, without more, the power of alienation may be a necessary incident of such property (f): but, if the settlement of separate property upon a feme

coverte

- (b) Toulmin v. Steere, 3 Meriv. 223; citing Le Neve v. Le Neve. 3 Atk. 646.
- (c) Blinkhorn v. Feast, 2 Ves. Senr. 30.
- (d) King v. Denison, 1 Ves. & Bea. 275; Jevon v. Bush, 1 Vern. 343.
 - (e) Binion v. Stone, 2 Freem.
- 169; S. C. Nelson, 68. This case was decided by Lord Clarendon, C., assisted by Hale, C. B., and Windham, J.; but see Lamplugh v. Lamplugh, 1 P. Wms. 112, contrà.
- (f) Hulme v. Tenant, 1 Br. 19; Fettiplace v. Gorges, 1 Ves. Junr. 48.

coverte be coupled with a clause prohibiting anticipation, that clause is binding (g). If, in such case, the wife join with her husband in a deed of assignment of separate property so settled on her for her life, although she may be a party to the misrepresentation and concealment of the settlement and clause against anticipation, the assignee can have no relief. Supposing the concealment to be clearly the wife's personal fraud, the question for the question has reference not only to her interest, but to the may not have reference to her intention of the author of the settlement; and a own interests only. Court of Equity will not be disposed to suffer the wife's fraud to give her a power of alienation, against the intention of the settler. This might induce husbands to compel their wives to join in a fraud, for the purpose of thereby acquiring the power of alienation (h).

Where a marriage is fraudulently procured to be solemnized between parties, one of whom is a perty of minors, whose marriage minor, (and not a widower or widow,) on an in-has been fraudulently procured, formation, filed within one year after the offence may be secured. committed; the Courts of Chancery, or Exchequer, are empowered to secure all estate and interest in any property, which may accrue to the offending party by force of such marriage, for the benefit of the innocent party; or, where both parties contracting such marriage have been equally offenders, then, immediately for the benefit of their issue (i).

How the pro-

The

⁽g) Brandon v. Robinson, 18 Ves. 434; Ritchie v. Broadbent, 2 Jac. & Walk. 458.

Meriv. 488.

⁽i) Stat. 4 Geo. 4, c. 76, s. 23: see Priestley v. Lambe, 6 Ves. 424.

⁽h) Jackson v. Hobhouse, 2

The Court of severely the offence of marrying a ward of Court. after a great lapse of time:

The Court of Chancery has a right, after any Chancery is not disposed to visit lapse of time, to take notice of a contempt committed by marrying a ward of the Court: on the other hand, as that jurisdiction is to be exercised according to a sound discretion, all circumstances will be considered, before the Court determines what is to be done: and though a case might, if it had been brought forward immediately after the marriage, have imposed the painful duty of inflicting personal suffering on the parties; yet, the Court would not be disposed to hold it a wholesome exercise of discretion, to visit the offence strongly, if. upon attention to circumstances that have occurred in a course of years subsequent to the offence, it be not very strongly called upon to vindicate the When the case, however, does jurisdiction (k). call for it, all the parties offending may, not only be committed (1), but, indicted for a conspiracy: or proceeded against by a criminal information filed by the Attorney-General (m); in which the officiating clergyman may be included (π) : and it will be no excuse for the party who has married a ward of Court, to allege, that, he was ignorant of her being such (a). The Court may, possibly,

but, where the case calls for it, all the parties concerned may be committed.

⁽k) Ball v. Coutts, 1 Ves. & Bea. 297, 300, 302.

⁽¹⁾ Goodwin's case, and Hannes v. Waugh, cited 2 P. Wms.

⁽m) Ball v. Coutts, 1 Ves. & Bea. 298; Millet v. Rouse, 7 Ves. 419; Wade v. Broughton, 3 Ves. & Bea. 173; Pearce v.

Crutchfield, 16 Ves. 48; Priestley v. Lamb, 6 Ves. 423.

⁽n) Millet v Rouse, and Priestley v. Lamb, ubi suprà; Nicholson v. Squire, 16 Ves. 261; Warter v. Yorke, 19 Ves. 453.

⁽o) Nicholson v. Squire, 16 Ves. 260.

sibly, not be bound, ex officio, to punish a contempt of this nature, where there is no complaint (p); but, still, a complaint is not necessary to ground the jurisdiction: the Court, when informed, how-not necessary to ever tardily, of such a transaction, has a right, and diction, in such may, under circumstances, be bound, to take notice of it: although the fact, that there was no complaint, if it stood alone, would have weight in the question whether the Court would do welf to interfere (a): The Court of Chancery will not only interfere to prevent improper marriages of aid testamentary wards of Court; but will also, on petition, assist guardians in retestamentary guardians in restraining their wards wards from marfrom forming such marriages (r): and, if the case ly. call for it, will order guardians not to permit their infant wards to marry without the consent of the Court (s).

A complaint is

The Court of rying improper-

A Court of Equity will not be disposed to view transactions between father and son in the light of ed to view proper reversionary bargains, if they can fairly be referred family arrangements in the light to proper and just family arrangements. A rea- of reversionary sonable degree of jealousy will be employed in scrutinizing such transactions, lest they should be tainted with fraud, or, undue influence; but at the same time it will be borne in mind, that there may be other considerations, besides mere pecuni-

Courts of Equi-

ary

⁽p) Eyre v. Countess of Shaftesbury, 2 P. Wms. 117.

⁽q) Ball v. Coutts, 1 Ves. & Bea. 299.

⁽r) Lord Raymond's case, Ca. temp. Talb. 59; Beard v. Tra-

vers, 1 Ves. Senr. 313; Pearce v. Crutchfield, 14 Ves. 206.

⁽s) Smith v. Smith, 3 Atk. 307; Lord Raymond's case, ubi suprà.

ary ones, which may make such arrangements conducive to the best interests of all parties (t).

A party's ingain.

When advantage has been taken of a party's toxication may invalidate a bar- youth and inexperience, and habits of intoxication into which he has been seduced; no unfair bargain made with a party under such circumstances can be maintained: at all events not in a Court of Equity (u).

A trustee for a married woman, from her husband.

If a person procure himself to be appointed will not be allow- trustee of the separate property of a married woed to obtain payment, out of her man, with a view to pay himself, out of such proment, out of her man, with a view to pay himself, out of such proproperty, of a debt due to him by her husband: the existence of which debt he suppressed till he was appointed trustee; a Court of Equity will not allow him to derive any benefit from transactions which have arisen out of such an imposition (w).

> (t) Tweddell v. Tweddell, 1 Turn. & Russ. 13; Middleton v. Lord Kenyon, 2 Ves. Junr. 410.

Ves. 16; Say v. Barwick, 1 Ves. & Bea. 190; Dunnage v. White, 1 Swanst. 150. (w) Dalbiac v. Dalbiac, 16

(u) Cooke v. Clayworth, 18 Ves. 124.

CHAPTER XV.

Frauds in Annuity Transactions.

THE jurisdiction of a Court of Equity to order void deeds to be delivered up to be cancelled, der void deeds though it has, formerly, been doubted, is now ful- to be delivered up; ly established (a): and, that a defect in the memo- and, a defect in rial of an annuity lays a sufficient ground for the an annuity furexercise of this jurisdiction, has been too often de-nishes ground for the exercise of cided to be open to discussion (b).

Courts of Equity have, frequently, acknowledged the distinction between acts of Parliament de- legal effect to innying legal effect to certain instruments, and acts able interference declaring other instruments to be void to all intents is often held not to be, thereby, and purposes: collecting from the more extensive prohibited; words the inference, that, the equitable, as well as act of Parliament the legal jurisdiction was intended to be prohibit- certain defects ed. Upon that express distinction the doctrine shall render an instrument void as to the annuity act has proceeded: if that act to all intents and had merely declared, that, the instrument should be void, all the contract would still have remained: under which, though no interest passed, a right would have been created, giving the Court of Chancery

Equity may orthe memorial of this jurisdiction.

Where acts of Parliament deny as it is where an declares, that, purposes.

Ves. 360; 'Underhill v. Horwood, 10 Ves. 218; Bromley v. Holland, Coop. 20.

⁽a) Corporation of Colchester v. Lowten, 1 Ves. & Bea.

⁽b) Dupuis v. Edwards, 18

Chancery a right to interpose: but, the act declaring the instruments void to all intents and purposes; and its policy requiring, that, they should not be set up to any intent or purpose; the Court has refused, by the exercise of its equitable jurisdiction, to fasten on the conscience of the grantor, and to hold him bound by his contract notwithstand-Not to impeach a ing the statute (c). But, if the grantor of an aninemorial till arter the death of nuity delay making any objections to the memorial. witnesses, suspi- until the witnesses, who might have proved its accuracy, are dead, or become incompetent; the ex parte affidavits impeaching the memorial will be entitled to very little attention (d).

unemorial till afcious.

The right of Courts of Equity to impose terms, ity transactions, may depend upon the application be made on equitable grounds;

or, to have the deed delivered up,

In examining the right of Courts of Equity to impose terms, as a condition of relief in respect of as a condition of annuity transactions, it seems necessary to consider, in each case, what is the specific relief sought. the specific relief If the application be made on equitable grounds, that is, whether alleging that the grant was obtained by fraud. extortion, or undue advantage of any kind; there, unon the principle that he who asks relief against fraud should not himself act fraudulently (e); it is obviously just that the applicant should engage to return the consideration actually received by him for his grant (f): but if the application be to have the annuity deed delivered up, not upon any of the grounds which might bring the matter within the jurisdiction of a Court of Equity with reference to its

Morse v. Royal, 12 Ves. 378.

⁽c) Davis v. Earl of Strathmore, 16 Ves. 428.

⁽d) Symmons v. Mortimer, 5 T. R. 140; Cousins v. Thompson, Hunt on Annuities, 241;

⁽e) Rome v. Wood, 1 Jac. & Walk. 333.

⁽f) Aguilar v. Aguilar, 5 Mad. 416.

its own peculiar doctrines, and upon which it may exercise an undoubted discretion as to setting the deed aside; but—as being absolutely void under the on the ground statute (g): it should seem, that, the plaintiff ly void under the would be entitled to that relief, without account-statute: ing for the consideration paid for the annuity (h); leaving the annuitant to proceed at Law (i). the grantor be defendant, and the annuity be void, the annuity void, a Court of Equity would have no more right to there appears no interfere, than if the grantee's demand were for an interference of ordinary debt(k): even were it shewn that the due execution of the deed was prevented by fraud, the right to equitable relief appears doubtful (l); if an analogy may be drawn from the decisions under the register acts: the dicta to be found in the books lead to a conclusion that the grantee's only remedy must be by an action for money had and received (m).

And a feme coverte may file a bill as plaintiff in a suit to set aside an annuity, without offering to plaintiff, to set return the price paid for such an annuity: since aside an annuity, without offering at Law no action would lie against her in respect to return the of a demand founded on mere contract and gene-

If if the grantor be defendant, and ground for any Equity.

> A feme coverte may file a bill as without offering

⁽g) Stat. 53 Geo. 3, c. 141.

⁽h) Bazzelgetti v. Battine, 2 Swanst. 156 n., 157.

⁽i) Shove v. Webb, 1 T. R. 735; Scurfield v. Gowland, 6 East, 241; Williamson v. Goold, 1 Bingham, 241; Low v. Barchard, 8 Ves. 136.

⁽k) Duke of Bolton v. Williams, 2 Ves. Junr. 147; S. C. 4 Br. 310; Jones v. Harris, 9

Ves. 494.

⁽l) Mestaer v. Gillespie, 11 Ves. 626; Thompson v. Leake, 1 Mad. 43; Thompson v. Smith, 1 Mad. 406; In re Ship Warre, 8 Price, 274; Ex parte Wright, 19 Ves. 258.

⁽m) Hicks v. Hicks, 3 East, 16; Holbrook v. Sharpey, 19 Ves. 133.

ral engagement; and, by analogy, a Court of Equity would refuse to fasten upon her property equities arising out of contract and general engagein case of a valid ment only (2): if the grant be valid, Equity will would apply her apply her separate property in payment of an anseparate property in payment of nuity which she has expressly charged upon it; since, in such case, a Court of Equity alone can but could not, if give the requisite relief(o); but the Court cannot apinformal, compel ply her separate property in repayment of the conrepayment of the sideration money, which is a demand she has not charged upon it (p).

the grant were money.

grant, Equity

the annuity:

separate proper-

In Aguilar v. Aguilar the objection taken was memorial; and therefore, it should rather seem, any other plaintiff might have applied as well as a fome coverte, to have such an annuity deed delivered ing an account:

In Aguilar v. Aguilar, one of the cases referred to in the last paragraph, the objection was a a legal one, to the legal one, to the memorial: and it may be observed, respectfully, that the reasoning employed in the judgment, though fine,—and, if intended to apply to cases where a feme coverte seeks relief upon equitable grounds, very important,—was not absolutely necessary for the purpose of deciding up, without offer- the case then before the Court; unless it be denied, that the authorities, already cited, establish the right of any plaintiff,—a male adult, perfectly sui juris, as well as a feme coverte,—to apply to a Court of Equity to have an annuity deed delivered up, on the ground of a legal informality, without offering an account: where relief against an such rener is sought on equitable grounds, able grounds, it the Court, even in favor of expectant heirs, (a will in no case be class

though where such relief is

> (n) Aguilar v. Aguilar, 5 Mad. 418; Angell v. Hadden, 2 Meriv. 169.

> (o) Essex v. Atkins, 14 Ves. 546, 1 Ba. & Beat. 152; Great

ley v. Noble, 3 Mad. 94.

(p) Stuart v. Lord Kirkwall, 3 Mad. 389; and Aguilar v. Aguilar, ubi suprà.

class of suitors to whom it extends the most am granted except ple protection,) will not grant it, except on a tender of the consideration der of the consideration money, and interest (y). terest By bearing in mind this distinction between deeds which are voidable upon fraudulent circumstances dehors the deed, and annuities which are ipso facto void on the face of the deed; it is believed, the discrepancy which has been supposed to exist between the various decisions on this subject, will be materially lessened, if not entirely done away; though many of the dicta will still remain irreconcileable.

money, and in-

The conclusion submitted (though with no presumptuous confidence,) is, that, where the plaintiff posed discrepanhas sought to have the annuity deed delivered up, cy of the cases on this subject. as being void under the statute, and has not offered by his bill to account; there the authorities seem to bear out the position, that terms cannot be imposed by a Court of Equity (r): but, clearly, where the plaintiff seeks to avoid, upon equitable circumstances, an instrument valid at Law, there he will be compelled to do what is just, as the condition upon which alone he will receive the aid of Equity.

concile the sup-

Of course, when the grantor of an annuity, by When the granthis bill, offers to account (s), that will give a Court or of an annuity, by his bill,

of

(q) Davis v. Duke of Marlborough, 2 Swanst. 166.

(r) Bazelgetti v. Battine, 2 Swanst. 156, 157.

(s) Holbrook v. Sharpey, 19 Ves. 131; Bromley v. Holland, 5 Ves. 611; Ex parte Shaw, ibid. 621; Byne v. Vivian, ibid. 604, (as to which, see 5 Mad. 417, note); Hoffman v. Cooke, ibid. 631; Dupuis v. Edwards, 18 Ves. 359; were all cases in which the plaintiff offered to account.

Equity will hold which he seeks to have delivered

up, may be. Neither an assignment of an annuity, nor an agreement to grant an annuity. require enrolment;

nor an annuity not sold for money.

Provision made by a late statute, in case the grantor of an annuity become bankrupt.

offers to account; of Equity jurisdiction to keep him to the terms of him to the terms his own proposal; and, although the deed be abof his own proposal; however des solutely void, it will be ordered to be delivered up fective the deed, only on repayment of the consideration actually advanced(t).

> An assignment of an annuity does not require enrolment (u): neither is an agreement to grant an annuity within the act: an execution of such an agreement, therefore, though not enrolled, may, in Equity, be enforced (w). And the enrolment of such an agreement would be merely superfluous; as no action at Law could be maintained upon such an instrument: for, to constitute a legal annuity deed, there must be positive words of immediate and present grant (x). Nor is enrolment necessary where the annuity is not sold for pecuniary consideration (y).

> Until a modern statute gave relief(x); if the grantor of an annuity became bankrupt, and the annuitant could only prove under the commission for any arrears which might be due, but not in respect of the growing claims; unless, previously to such bankruptcy, the bond, by which payment of the annuity was secured, was broken, and the penalty forfeited; but, now, in all cases, the annuity must be valued, and proof, to the amount of such valuation.

- (t) Davis v. Duke of Marlborough, 2 Swanst. 156.
- (u) Brown v. Like, 14 Ves. 306.
- (w) Nield v. Smith, 14 Ves. 491: see post, p. 518.
 - (x) In re Locke, 2 Dowl. &

Ryl. 607.

- (y) Blake v. Attersoll, 2 Barn. & Cress. 882.
- (z) Stat. 49 Geo. 3, c. 121, s. 17; the substance of which now forms the 52nd sect. of the statute 5 Geo. 4, c. 98.

valuation, will be admitted; whether the annuity was merely a personal one, or secured upon real If, however, the annuitant have received any payments subsequently to the bankruptcy, such payments must be deducted from the amount of his proof(a): but, as we have said, it is, now, immaterial, as to admission of proof, by what assurance the annuity was secured: or whether any arrears were, or were not, due upon the annuity at the time of the bankruptcy (b).

The statute of 49 Geo. 3, above cited, appears to have contemplated, in the section referred to, Geo. 3, applies only to the case nothing more than the situation of a sole grantor of a sole grantor of an anuity; of an annuity, no provision is made with regard to sureties, or to the case of a joint grant of an annuitv. The object of the clause seems to have been its object appears merely to discharge the bankrupt and his future to have been to discharge the effects; but not to make the certificate of the bankrupt; but bankrupt operate to prevent the annuitant from annuitant from proceeding against the sureties, or co-grantors; against sureties, which right it would be palpably unjust to deprive him of. That right, however, he might find it difficult to make effectual, in a Court of common Law at least, against the solvent grantors, after receiving a dividend on the estimated value of the annuity, under the commission against the bankrupt grantor; for a Court of Law has no means to apportion the yearly value. A Court of Equity could alone, satisfactorily, deal with such a ques-

not to prevent the proceeding or co-grantors:

^{52;} Ex parte Thistlewood, 19 (a) Ex parte Key, 1 Mad. 429: and see, stat. 5 Geo. 4, c. 98, s. Ves. 249: see the head of "Bankruptcy."

⁽b) Stat. 5 Geo. 4, c. 98, s.

but the general bankrupt act specially points out the course of proceeding by, or against, collateral sureties in such cases.

tioh (c).

bankrup bankrup previous previous

The sect

The 53d section of the consolidated bankrupt act (d), removes any doubt which might previously have arisen, as to the proper course to be pursued by, or against, sureties, in such cases, The section cited contains an enactment, that, it shall not be lawful for any person entitled to an annuity granted by any bankrupt, to sue any person who may be collateral surety for the payment of such annuity, until such annuitant shall have proved under the commission against such bankrupt for the value of such annuity, and for the arrears thereof; and if such surety, after such proof. pay the amount proved, he shall be discharged from all claims in respect of such annuity: and if such surety shall not (before any payment of the said annuity, subsequent to the said bankruptcy. shall have become due) pay the sum so proved as aforesaid, he may be sued for the accruing payments of such annuity, until such annuitant shall have been paid or satisfied the amount so proved. with interest thereon at the rate of £4 per cent. ner annum, from the time of notice of such proof, and of the amount thereof, being given to such surety: and, after such payment or satisfaction, such surety shall stand in the place of such annuitant in respect of such proof as aforesaid, to the amount so paid or satisfied by such surety: and the certificate of the bankrupt shall be a discharge to him from all claims of such annuitant or of such surety in respect of such annuity: provided that such surety

⁽c) Baxter v. Nicholls, 4 (d) Statute 5 Geo. 4, c. 98. Taunt. 92.

surety shall be entitled to credit in account with such annuitant for any dividends received by such annuitant under the commission, before such surety shall have fully paid or satisfied the amount so proved as aforesaid.

In estimating the value of an annuity, at the time of the bankruptcy of the grantor, or at any annuity, the origother given period, the actual value cannot depend in price cannot determine the merely on the original price; though that, it has actual value: been held, is certainly, more or less according to circumstances, to be taken into account. demption price affords no evidence of value whatever; it is not fixed upon any calculation of value; and its amount is always the same; depending upon none of those variations in respect of circumstances, which must govern the calculation of the actual value. If the question is brought before the Lord Chancellor sitting in bankruptcy, he will subject, in bankruptcy. notice any fraud or oppression which may have tainted the original transaction; although the nature of the contract may not have been adverted to by the commissioners: but, where there are not any peculiar circumstances to affect the price, as it is altered by the effluxion of time, and only by the effluxion of time; it must be presumed, that, the parties acted fairly at the time when the contract was made; and, that, the value of the annuity is, the original sum given, with a due allowance for the variation occasioned by the lapse of time since the grant (e).

In estimating the value of an

The re- The redemption whatever.

Rule, on this

An

⁽e) Ex parte Whitehead, 1 tlewood, 19 Ves. 254; S. C. Meriv. 14, 128; S. C. 19 Ves. 1 Rose, 295; Butcher v. 561: and see Ex parte This-Churchill, 14 Ves. 574. This

An annuity secured upon a upon any renewed term.

An annuity secured upon a leasehold estate, is a lease is a charge charge upon any renewed term; and the annuitant is not bound to contribute to the fines of renewal; for, that would be to make him pay the consideration twice (f).

Rules as to the purchase of an annuity before a Master in Chancery.

When an annuity is sold before a Master in Chancery, as the purchase of an interest of this uncertain nature must have been made with a view to the value at the time, the Court considers the purchaser as entitled to the benefit of the annuity from the confirmation of the report: and that he should pay interest upon his purchase money from the very day upon which he first could have confirmed the report (g).

Specific performance of an grant of an annuity, may, if free from fraud, be enforced in Equi-

When an agreement for the grant of an annuiagreement for the ty has been entered into; and the intended grantee, in reliance thereon, has actually advanced the purchase-money; specific performance of the contract, if fair and free from fraud, will be decreed: for, it would be against conscience to allow the grantor, after having enjoyed the accommodation of the purchaser's money, to recede from the condition on which he obtained it. And as to the objection, that, the annuity was to depend on lives which had not been named; if it appear that the delay in doing this was attributable to the grantor, he will not

arrangement made, when the annuity was to depend on lives, which have not been named:

> rule for determining the value of an annuity, in cases of bankruptcy, (whatever latitude may be left in other cases,) is fixed by the 52d section of the statute 5 Geo. 4, c. 98.

> (f) Moody v. Matthews, 7 Ves. 184.

(g) Twigg v. Fifield, 13 Ves. 518: see, and compare, Ex parte Minor, 11 Ves. 539, with Anson v. Towgood, 1 Jac. & Walk. 639: and see the Chapter on "Settlement and Conveyance" ad finem.

be allowed to take advantage of it: the Court, however, will take care that injustice is not done, on the other side, by nominating new lives which were not in existence at the time of the contract(h). This last provision meets (to a certain extent, at least,) the argument used in O'Herlihy v. Hedges (i).

Where a fraudulent advantage has been taken Equity will reof the distress of the grantor, to obtain an annuity annuity has been at a grossly inadequate price, these circumstances extorted from a distressed person, may afford a ground upon which Equity will re- at a grossly inlieve (j): but the single fact, that, the best price which might have been obtained has not been given, will not be a sufficient ground for rescinding the transaction (k). And when a contract respect-subsequent ing an annuity was fair at the moment when it took vantage, no place, the accident of its becoming more, or less, ground for resisting execution of advantageous, by the death of the party, or parties, the agreement. on whose life, or lives, it was to depend, will be no ground for resisting the execution of the agreement, on either side (l).

An annuity granted, not as a degrading bargain for future illicit intercourse, but, as the præmium pranium pudicipudicitiæ, and in consideration of past cohabitation; will, if the grant is completed, be good as completed, good

lieve, where an adequate price;

An annuity granted as the tiæ, is, when the grant has been against the grantagainst or, but not against his creditors:

- (h) Pritchard v. Ovey, 1 Jac. & Walk. 404.
- (i) 1 Sch. & Lef. 128. See Lord Kensington v. Phillips, 5 Dow, 72. And the head of "Settlement, Conveyance," &c. in this Treatise.
- (j) Lawley v. Hooper, 3 Atk. 279, 281; Underhill v. Hor-

wood, 10 Ves. 219.

- (k) Heathcote v. Paignon, 2 Br. 178; Low v. Barchard, 8 Ves. 137; Griffith v. Spratley, 1 Cox's Ca. 389.
- (l) Gowland v. De Faria, 17 Ves. 25; Paine v. Meller, 6 Ves. 352.

against the grantor (m): but, if he become bankrupt, a debt arising out of a bond given to secure payment of such annuity cannot be proved under his commission: if the grantor were solvent, it would be right that he should make a provision for the partner of his vice; but such a debt, being tainted with immorality, will not be allowed to come in competition with creditors whose claims and even against are liable to no impeachment (n). the grantor himself, if the grant against the grantor himself, if the grant be not be not complete completed, his written promise to make it cannot ed, his written promise to make be enforced; a Court of Equity will consider such it, cannot be enpromise as merely voluntary, and founded on no good, meritorious, or valuable consideration (o).

forced.

An assignment of a pension from annuity:

An assignment of a pension, held under Government by the grantor of an annuity, offers but a very imperfect security for the continued payment payment of an of such approximation of such approximation. assignee the Court of Chancery has no jurisdiction; if the annuitant have any remedy, it must be in the Court of Exchequer, sitting as a Court of Revenue (p): and it is extremely doubtful whether he could have any relief in that Court, if it should appear, that, by an Order in Council, the Crown has withdrawn the pension in consequence of any misdemeanor, or default, of the party to whom

⁽m) Gray v. Matthias, 5 Ves. 294; Spicer v. Hayward, Prec. in Cha. 115; Cray v. Rooke, Ca. temp. Talbot, 155; Lady Cox's case, 3 P. Wms. 340.

⁽n) Ex parte Ward, cited 15

Ves. 290; Turner v. Vaughan, 2 Wils. 340.

⁽o) Matthews v. L-e, 1 Mad. 564; Knye v. Moore, 1 Sim. & Stu. 64.

⁽p) Case of The York Buildings Company, 2 Atk. 56.

whom it was granted (q). Where, indeed, a libe-where, indeed, a rate for payment of the pension has issued, and ment of the penthe proper officer admits he has money in his sion has issued; hands applicable to the payment; as against such as against the officer the pensioner might himself have maintain- ought to pay it, ed an action; and his equitable assignees may the assignee of the pensioner have relief in Chancery, as well as in the Court of may have relief, either in Chance-Exchequer (r).

When a person has covenanted to pay to the trustees of his marriage settlement a certain sum, assignment of diwithin a given time, the interest of which sum, and conditionally, on also of other funds included in the settlement, is another for life, as security for the made payable to him for life; if the covenant be payment of an anbroken, and the money remain unpaid, and the party grant an annuity, for securing which, he, without the privity of the trustees, assigns the aforesaid dividends; the trustees are justified, in stopping the dividends, not merely if they begin to do so as soon as the covenants are broken, but at any time afterwards, at their discretion: for the is subject to the assignee, taking no legal interest in the funds, which the ascould only take subject to the same equity to which the assignor was liable. The annuitant must have been aware of the covenant; and it was his own neglect not to inquire whether it was satisfied: he can have no equity against the trustees where he has not been misled by them (s).

If, upon a dissolution of partnership, the existing lease of the premises in which the business has assignment of a

liberate for pay-

officer who ry or the Exchequer.

A person who has accepted an

signor was liable.

been

⁽q) Priddy v. Rose, 3 Meriv. Senr. 312. 104.

⁽s) Priddy v. Rose, 8 Meriv.

^{107.} (r) Row v. Dawson, 1 Yes.

bond, conditionshould be disposmises, without OWB:"

the bankruptcy of the grantor will not work agreement.

An annuity may be so bequeathed as to cease, if the anto authorize others to receive the same;

assignees, if he were made a bankrupt,

lease, and also by been carried on, are assigned to the continuing ed to be void in partner; in consideration of which he grants to case the grantor the retiring partner an annuity secured by an assessed of the pre- signment of the existing lease, and benefit of all "any collusion, renewals thereof in trust; and also by bond, concontrivance, act, or default of his ditioned to be void on payment of the annuity, or "in case he should at any time after the expiration of the then existing lease be dispossessed of and compelled to quit the premises, without any collusion, contrivance, act, or default of his own:" and the grantor, after obtaining a renewal of the lease, becomes bankrupt, so that the renewed lease. such a disposses-sion as was con. passes under the assignment of his estate; this is templated by the not such an eviction or dispossession as was contemplated by the agreement; and the annuitant. or his representative may assert, in Equity, a lien upon the premises for payment of the annuity (t).

Where a testator has bequeathed an annuity, as a means of personal support only to the object of cease, if the annuitant do any act his bounty, and not as a fund of credit; and has guarded his intention by a proviso, that, the annuity shall cease whenever the annuitant shall do any act to authorize, or empower, others to receive the same: a forfeiture will be incurred, should the annuitant take the benefit of the insolvent act: for, signing the petition and schedule would be but, his interest voluntary on his part (u). The case would be difwould pass to his ferent if he were made a bankrupt; that would be compulsory upon him, and he would be merely passive

^{407:} and see Wilkinson v. (t) Holyland v. De Mendex, 3 Meriv. 189. Wilkinson, 2 Wils. Cha. Ca.

⁽u) Shee v. Hale, 13 Ves. 58.

passive on the occasion; his interest in the annuity, therefore, would pass to his assignees (w): though, of course, the testator might, had he clear- unless the testaly expressed an intention to that effect, have made for such a case. the annuity cease when bankruptcy took place (x).

tor had provided

If an estate be purchased through the medium of an agent, who had previously not only nego-charged with an tiated the sale of an annuity charged upon that es- annuity, cannot defeat it; if he tate, but also had regularly paid the same; this had constructive actual notice to the agent is, in Equity, considered as constructive notice to those who employed him: and they cannot defeat the annuity (y).

The purchaser of an estate

Should a person, entitled to a rent charge upon an estate, grant a number of annuities, secured charge, cannot upon that rent charge; the terre tenant has a split it into a number of annuiright to consider the whole as one annuity only, so ties, as against far as he is concerned; there being only one legal so as to harass right of entry. And should the contracting par- of claims. ties think fit, as between themselves, to split this entire charge into portions, and to make a variety of claims upon the owner of the estate; he may protect himself by filing a bill of interpleader: the principle of relief going to protect him, not only from being compelled to pay, but, also, from the vexation attending the discussion of all the suits that might otherwise be instituted (*).

A person entitled to a rent terre tenant : him by a variety

When an annuity is bequeathed, or any disposition of property in the nature of an annuity is ment, where an annuity is ment, where an annuity is be-

No apportionmade queathed over.

⁽w) Wilkinson v. Wilkinson, Coop. 261: and see Doe v. Bevan, 3 Mau. & Sel. 358.

⁽x) Cooper v. Wyatt, 5 Mad. 489; The King v. Robin-

son, Wightw. 393.

⁽y) Toulmin v. Steere, 3 Meriv. 222.

⁽z) Angell v. Hadden, 15 Ves. 246.

made, first in favor of one legatee for life, and at his death over; no apportionment of any payment, not actually due at the decease of the first legatee, can be made in favor of his representatives (a). An annuity to But, an annuity to a man "and his heirs" constia man "and his beirs," carries the tutes a perpetual annuity; the only way of satisfying it is by setting apart such a sum as would for ever answer it; and, the annuitant would have the absolute disposition of the fund so set aside (b): for, an annuitant by will, falls under the general character of a legatee (c); unless the testator has himself distinguished them (d).

power of absolute disposition.

- (a) Franks v. Noble, 12 534; Habergham v. Vincent, 2 Ves. Junr. 231; Foley's case, Ves. 491.
 - (b) Smith v. Pybus, 9 Ves. 2 Freem. 49.
 - (d) Nannock v. Horton, 7

(c) Sibley v. Perry, 7 Ves. Ves. 402.

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